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Reportage on Presidential Group of Eight Meeting

Presidents Continue Arriving

PY1110163289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1505 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Summary] The Presidents of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari; of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez; and of Argentina, Carlos Saul Menem, arrived today in Pisco to participate in the presidential summit of the Group of Eight that will take place in Ica. Peruvian President Alan Garcia welcomed the three presidents in separate ceremonies. They listened to their respective national anthems and reviewed the troops in formation at the Pisco Air Base.

At 1604 GMT the presidents boarded a Peruvian Air Force helicopter that will take them to the meeting place near Ica.

Garcia Opens Summit

PY1210005889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1739 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Speech by Peruvian President Alan Garcia at the opening ceremony of the third presidential summit of the Group of Eight countries at the Las Dunas Hotel in Ica, Peru—live]

[Excerpts] Chiefs of State of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Agreement, ladies and gentlemen:

I acknowledge your presence here in ratification of the objectives of integration that first brought us together in Mexico and then in Uruguay. It also confirms that our deepest cause and revolution is Latin American unity.

Each one of us faces to some extent violence, crisis, and problems. We face them in each country. But we know that integration will bring a definite solution to our problems; our decision must not take long.

I greet you in the name of Peru, which maintains its democracy despite terrorism and asserts its right to freedom as an unimpeachable principle. I greet you in the name of Peru, which despite its historical limitations and current economic troubles has not lost the hope of overcoming poverty. We know, as we are an experienced society, that the road will be long and full of difficulties. But Peru will triumph for democracy, development, and integration.

I greet you in the name of Peru, which thinks of itself as Latin American and which understands nationalism in its real continental meaning. Peru understands that, in 170 years of republican life, all of our countries have tried individualistic development models that are no longer feasible. Latin America—which was discovered by Europe 5 centuries ago—knows that in order to face the world economic and political trends it must form itself into a single powerful unit by 1992. [passage omitted]

In Latin America we must ask ourselves the reasons behind disarmament and perestroyka.

It is clear that one of the reasons behind these trends is the reorganization of the world market to make Western technology available to tens of millions of new consumers in Eastern societies. Another reason for disarmament is the reorganization of financial and commercial patterns. Up until now the wealthy Western countries of the North have accumulated resources obtained in part from the poor countries of the South. But this relationship is no longer feasible. The impoverished countries of the South are no longer good markets for capital and investments from wealthy countries in the North. The North-South relationship is thus being replaced by a new economic relationship between East and West.

The United States, Europe, and Japan are now primarily seeking to establish tens of millions of Soviets, Chinese, and Eastern Europeans as consumers of their technology and capital. Thus, paradoxically, the debt collected from Latin America and the Third World can ultimately be earmarked for expanding the new East bloc markets.

Considering this fact, this process, if each Latin American country negotiates unilaterally or acts on its own, it will become increasingly weak. No country should dream of getting better treatment by seeing itself as an exception in the world process. We are in serious danger as a result of the rapprochement between the two blocs in their attempt to form a single economic market. We are also in danger because the transformation being experienced by communist countries could lead to a misinterpretation; that is, this could lead to the belief that this process signals the final absolute victory of the laws of the market over state planning.

Thus, if misinterpreted, the entire global process could be considered a victory of only one theory: neoliberalism. Through this interpretation each country in the South could come to the belief that it is no longer worth it to maintain a firm stand or to make demands, but rather accept this reality and seek isolated bilateral negotiations to obtain a better deal, no matter how meager it is.

This would be an extremely serious mistake that we must try to avoid. We must be alert now and in the future.

Today, perhaps more so than ever before, only the economies of large integrated regions and countries integrated into consolidated continental entities can secure a dignified, fair standing in the current restructured world market. No Latin American country acting alone can under any circumstances see itself as an exception to today's major economic and financial trends and attempt to obtain a far-reaching qualitative change for itself.

For instance, the 1970's were clearly a time for expanding credit to lend petrodollars. It is equally clear that the 1980's are a time for tightening credit and for recovering loans; no one can thus far claim to be an

exception to this trend. If we want to change this reality, we must qualitatively change our method of action by directing our decisions toward promoting collective actions on every topic that affects us.

For instance, in Peru we have been giving top priority to the foreign debt issue since 1985 because our figures were dramatically high. It should be noted that Latin America, which owed $190 billion, has paid $280 billion in 10 years but still owes $430 billion. There can only be one explanation for this: What we regard as foreign credits is just money that is revolving on itself to generate more and more interest without producing anything, without becoming productive investment.

Our countries have had to reduce their domestic consumption to make this huge payment only to become more heavily indebted. They have also had to reduce their imports and increase their exports by an average of 4 percent annually over the past 10 years. All these measures had to be carried out almost exclusively to pay the foreign debt because average per capita consumption has dropped dramatically in our continent.

Our conclusion is that today it is virtually impossible to pay the debt unless radical changes are made in terms of the debt price and interest rates, as all of you have demanded. It is true that in Peru we decided 4 years ago to unilaterally reduce payments on our debt. In doing so we also wanted to bring the Latin American reality into focus and to show how the contradictions were getting worse. Having taken that forceful position, which enabled us to grow for a few years, we now know that only through a firm Latin American position will we be able to affect qualitative changes and to make the leading creditor countries accept much higher reductions in the debt than those proposed up to now.

A firm Latin American position that acts collectively but takes into account the specific characteristics of each country could be instrumental in making everyone understand that the fair price of the debt is its actual market value, not its nominal value.

This situation also forces us to act calmly but firmly to request that substantial changes be made in the concepts and theories followed by the IMF. These changes may take a long time, but they are inevitable; the IMF is becoming a stumbling block in the relaunching of the world economy. Those rich countries that have amassed huge amounts of capital and technology can no longer lend these resources to the countries of the South, which have been forced into extreme poverty by their foreign debt. They are thus promoting disarmament and detente to direct their funds to Eastern Europe and the Far East. Disarmament will unfreeze and release large funds that will no longer be invested in nuclear weapons. These funds will increase the need to expand, stimulate consumption, and create a broader market in which these new funds can be invested productively.

The pressures brought about by the new approach to world capitalism have rendered the IMF theories obsolete and have turned them into stumbling blocks for productive forces and financial channels. The truth is that the IMF was created more than 40 years ago to promote a different industrial expansion process, which has already ended. Today, by persisting in its obsolete concepts, the IMF is imposing reduced consumption on each country. It is also insisting that money be used to pay for money, not for productive investment. The IMF continues to maintain the nominal debt value, which has an entirely different value on the market. In so doing, the IMF is preventing Latin America—the leading world debtor—from actively joining the world forces of consumption and production.

Thus, when we calmly request that the IMF change its theories, we do so in the light of the new East-West trade relations an in view of the emergence of a new economic framework consisting of these two blocs. We do it to prevent our continent from being excluded from the major world trends.

Yet we will achieve this goal only if we act collectively. Rich countries will accept our position only if they realize that Latin America is ready to act together.

In view of the adjustments proposed by the IMF, Latin American economic integration is indeed a proposal to expand production. A country acting alone will inevitably have to face adjustment, but countries participating in an integration process that emphisizes imports and exports among themselves fo have a chance to grow. Similarly, a country acting on its own that postpones its debt problem for some time will inevitably accumulate new debts if it lacks a plan for economic expansion and integration. In our opinion, the only way to achieve a duraole expansion program is through continental integration.

When we consider what all of the Latin American countries imported from Japan and the United States over the past 10 years, we can see that we could have bought more than half of these items from within Latin America, thus generating nearly 10 million additional jobs during these past 5 [as heard] years. This is a conclusive, confirmed fact.

Considering what Latin America has paid on its debt over the past 10 years, if we had retained only half of these foreign payments we would have had the resources to create more than 5 million additional jobs. We could have achieved all of this through integration over the past 10 years alone, but we have not done it. We have preferred to negotiate on our own, each of us believing that we are a better negotiator than the other. However, it is not too late to start, and this is the purpose of our frequent meetings. We have to assume the responsibility for achieving this goal. Let us not just complain and blame everything on the international system, because we are deceiving ourselves. Our debts can be traced back to our governments, to our bourgeoisie, and to the consumerism of our societies. Because of a small town

mentality or our own arrogance we have thus far failed to achieve unity. Therefore we should not complain or blame everything on others.

Upon calmly assuming our responsibilities, we must take the necessary action within each country to transform the governments and make them more efficient. We are doing this in Peru through regionalization and debureaucratization. Similarly, we should endorse integration pragmatically, not rhetorically, by viewing it as a measurable technical and commercial objective.

The year 1992 will be crucial for the world economy and politics. European integration should be consolidated in 1992. By then the barriers separating the socialist market and the West may no longer exist. A new economic framework would thus be consolidated. Yet 1992 will also mark the 500th anniversary of the meeting of two worlds, as the Europeans view their discovery of the Americas.

Why not set 1992 as our target date for a real discovery of the Americas by all Latin Americans. Divided into so many countries, with each seeking its own place in the world, our continent has not yet become the Latin America we all want. Why don't we set concrete, pragmatic goals regarding trade and cultural and political integration, no matter how bold they might seem for 1992?

Every proposal for unity must follow a timetable; 1992 is a symbolyc date to work toward by stimulating the current integration mechanisms and by coordinating their actions to formulate a great plan for that year. I am optimistically aware that all of our issues force us to look in that direction. I believe we must set specific goals for ourselves for 1992.

One of these goals should be Latin American disarmament; that is, disarmament among ourselves. If the leading powers are reducing their military expenditures, how can we complain to them about our debt and unfair world trade practices if we still put aside large amounts of resources for military spending? We believe we can establish common goals in this area to the extent that compliance can be guaranteed through this mechanism of agreement and through collective Latin American action.

This will not require any relinquishment of sovereignty; it will be a sincere, friendly, concerted action. We can formulate similar goals in the field of trade and in the struggle against the drug trade and drug addiction.

I would like to comment on the drug issue. Yesterday, in this very place, I held an important meeting with Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora in our capacities as presidents of countries in which coca is grown or in which its by-product—cocaine—is processed.

We have assumed our duty and obligation to engage in a political struggle, and in repressive actions. We endorsed the courageous struggle of the Government and people of Colombia and paid a heartfelt tribute to Colombian martyr Luis Carlos Galan.

We are equally aware that the cause of this problem, which distorts our agriculture and our economies, lies in the large demand from developed countries. We believe that this fact should force them to share our responsibilities not only politically but economically and to address the replacement of coca crops and substitute markets.

We Latin Americans must view the drug issue as a common problem to engage in a responsible dialogue with the United States and Europe to find a solution.

In sum, all the issues we have been working on together in the last few years are carrying us to a common front, the proof of which, as we said in Punta del Este, must be a dialogue on an equal footing with our big neighbor: the United States. We cannot and should not ignore the U.S. technological, military, and economic leadership, but we should collectively face its influence.

We think it is necessary to insist on the need for dialogue with the United States, a country linked to us by so many common problems. We need a dialogue on the reorganization of the world market, which is now in process, and on bilateral relations from the standpoint of an integrated plan for Latin American development.

This year, as an introduction to this dialogue, the new U.S. Administration has presented some important proposals. No one can deny that the Brady Plan has made progress in interpreting and recognizing that the debt is worth much less than its nominal value. No one can deny either that, in quantitative terms, the Brady Plan is still quite insufficient for bringing about real solutions to the Latin American problems of debt and consumption.

It is, however, a good start. If the possibility of reducing the value of the debt by 20 percent has already been accepted, much bolder proposals can be made in a dialogue through calm, firm positions. Perhaps an agreement could be reached to sell debt notes at their market value.

We should also welcome and support President Bush's decision to fight drug addiction, but we must note that the fight against the drug trade and crops in Latin America should not be addressed with unilateral donations—whether large or small—but must be the subject of coordinated political action and of an overall interpretation of what the drug problem represents in the broader scope of relations.

What we are asking for is a dialogue to bring about a fair division of responsibilities and a democratization of the guidelines used to interpret world events. If the industrial development of the rich countries has caused the atmosphere to become saturated with carbon, the Amazon countries cannot be blamed for this only because they have used their lumber resources. Similarly, if the high demand for drugs stimulates the use of our most fertile land for growing coca, our societies

cannot be blamed. If high interest rates have caused our foreign debt to reach huge amounts, those countries that are plunging into poverty in order to pay it cannot be blamed for this problem.

We need a fair share of responsibilities and we will only achieve this through integration. To this end, we are meeting here with optimism and a firm belief in unity. I want to welcome you here for Peru and for all Peruvians. I greet you in your capacity as representatives of your peoples.

From this free, democratic Peru, I also want to greet the Panamanian people. I salute the Panamanian popular leaders and publicly convey the Peruvian Government and people's repudiation and condemnation of the military dictatorship that is suppressing the Panamanian people's desire for freedom and is preventing them from being represented at this summit. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Castro Delivers Speech to Minibrigades

PA0910184689 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0147 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro marking 3d anniversary of the revitalization of the minibrigade movement in Cuba, at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana; no date given—live or recorded]

[Text] Comrade minibrigade workers: Recently, I have had many invitations; an invitation from the minibrigade movements on their 3d anniversary; an invitation from the Blas Roca Contingent on their 2d anniversary; I even had an invitation to a wedding today. However, this wedding is taking place in Pinar del Rio. A world champion, a world-record-holder is getting married. He invited me, but I am not going to have time to make it to Pinar del Rio as that wedding will be taking place shortly. In spite of the super highway, there just is not enough time.

Everyone is having an anniversary. Naturally, when I was invited, I was told: It will be a very brief ceremony, just a few words by Maximo [words indistinct] to stimulate people. I knew I would come here to say a few words, but it really is not necessary, because apparently Maximo's report explains very well the work the minibrigade movement has done in the last 3 years. He might have forgotten something about the achievements. Chavez mentioned the warehouse that was built for stores of cement. There are still some other things pending.

I will comment on the minibrigade movement. At this stage, we have not achieved everything we proposed to do. However, we have undoubtedly advanced. We must admit we started this movement from scratch. It had nothing, not even a truck, a jeep, or a concrete mixer. Everything was new. It had no trained personnel, it had no university graduates, it had no construction experts. All personnel had to be recruited and trained. Maximo told me that thousands of minibrigade workers have become experts in various tasks. The workers have been engaged in construction during the last 3 years.

There were no dining halls, kitchens, or refrigerators. It was a hassle, improvising everywhere. A kitchen was set up any place. In the last 3 years, we have obtained many resources, hundreds of trucks, [words indistinct], and a considerable amount of concrete mixers, winches for constructions, tilt trucks, cranes, payloaders, leveling equipment, and so forth. In other words, in the last 3 years, it has been possible for the minibrigade movement to obtain all of its equipment, not only here but also in other provinces.

This was done even though the minibrigade movement had to compete with other very important activities throughout the country, such as recovering hydraulic power. That was done simultaneously with the minibrigade movement. It was necessary to make great efforts and devote many resources. Hydraulic works were totally paralyzed. Dams would take many years to complete; it was big mess. We embarked on the task of revitalizing hydraulic works, and today the country is simultaneously working on 30 dams.

Today, the country is working on many land irrigation channels in addition to land irrigation systems. These are two different things. The dams, the large channels carrying the water, and the irrigation system that has to be built in the fields are different things. In this same period of time, I repeat, it has been necessary to organize all of this throughout the country.

We can say right now that hydraulic power usage has recovered. It can still be reinforced. There are great enterprises such as the Agabama Dam, with a capacity of 800 million cubic meters, that are being worked on.

Soon, work will begin on the channel that will take water to the Agabama, and that will connect it with the channel that goes from the Zaza Dam toward Ciego de Avila. In that manner, part of the water from the Agabama and the Zaza will flow into Ciego de Avila Province which has excellent soil and is also close to Camaguey Province.

The Cauto Dam is greatly advanced. That big dam contains 400 million cubic meters. We can say that we are working on almost all the main pipelines and on a large number of irrigation systems. I think this effort will be finished in 1990, and will entail considerable work. Moreover, we have had to rebuild a commitment to highways, roads, and freeways, which has called for efforts and resources. We can say that another commitment has been rebuilt. We are implementing an ambitious dairy plan. We opened six fronts to build dairy farms all over the country—six major fronts. One of them, the one in Camaguey, the largest, has already gained the capacity to build 60 dairy farms each year, in addition to all the other installations included in the plan for raising calves and heifers, as well as warehouses, highways, dams, minidams, irrigation systems, and housing for workers—meaning new communities for the labor force and the expansion of existing communities with children's centers, schools, and commercial services. We are implementing truly all-encompassing plans at these fronts to build dairy farms.

During this period we organized six fronts. We can say that this construction branch is completely organized. It is difficult to expand it further. Perhaps in some provinces there would not be enough heifers for a plan more ambitious than the one we are now implementing. We have six fronts: Camaguey, Las Tunas, Granma, Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, and sixth in Pinar de Rio. These six cattle fronts require more equipment than the minibrigade movement has. It has become necessary to obtain it or manufacture it.

We also have an ambitious plan to build all-encompassing swine centers. We have had to earmark a large amount of resouces to this activity also, and not just to the MICONS [Ministry of Construction], which

has to build 27 of the 50 such centers we are building. It is working on 22 centers and soon will be working on all 27 projects. We are making great progress during the period to execute these projects. As I said, not only MICONS, but also the Agriculture Ministry is implementing part of those projects—the swine projects. That ministry has to build the installations in those areas that have to be expanded, and the expansions are equivalent to three new centers. Therefore, the Agriculture Ministry needed construction equipment for all those activities, and that equipment has been supplied to it. The equipment includes a significant number of cranes, mechanical diggers, etc.

We have an ambitious poultry plan, which is also fundamentally implemented by the Agriculture Ministry. It has needed equipment to implement that plan all over the country. We now have plans to drain the sugarcane by parcels. So far, 57 brigades have been organized to drain the sugarcane fields by parcels. These brigades are not very big, but have a certain number of trucks, levelers, bulldozers, steamrollers, mechanical diggers, backhoes, etc. Also, 57 brigades have been organized.

We already have the equipment needed to organize 64 more brigades from now to the end of the year—levelers, mechanical diggers, backhoes, etc. Also, by the end of the year we will have 121 brigades to drain by parcels, working in all of the country's sugarcane fields. At present, we have five brigades of the rice engineers system and by the end of the year we will have seven. These brigades are much larger. Each requires several bulldozers and 22 levelers, just to cite an example.

In recent years we have also organized another front for the production of shrimp—shrimp culture—which also requires a large amount of equipment. We have three such fronts and will open a fourth this year. It goes without saying that we are building causeways to conquer or put in service of the country the fabulous resources that are available to it, yet are isolated. The first causeway built was on Coco Island. We are already working on one, two, three, four more.

The country will obtain about 120 km of beaches in the north central part of the country between Villa Clara and Camaguey. Some of theses beaches are as good or better than the Varadero beaches. In line with these same efforts, we are also working on a landfill in Trinidad, on the Ancon beach development project, and other activities that also require equipment. Of course the country's development plans require equipment. We are building industries in many places. I have not mentioned aqueducts, which also require equipment. I could mention contingents that are working in many places, in many provinces, not building dams or canals or irrigation systems or highways, but building causeways, and important industries. Others are building airports. Others in Santiago de Cuba are building important installations related to the 4th Congress. Others are building railroads. Others are building avenues. Others, like the Blas Roca crew, are building avenues, like the East-West Highway; railroads, like the one in Mariel; or the freeway to Pinar del Rio; and drainage systems like this colossal project at the Almendares River, in an area that was constantly being flooded. It used to be an infection festering point. It was a mosquito-ridden area.

Yesterday when I went to a local meeting here, I was told that this area is called the Bermuda Triangle because of the enormous tasks required. The number of agencies that we have to coordinate is incredible. We have to coordinate railroads, roads, avenues, dams, projects, and many ministries and industries, because there are several types of industries there. We have to coordinate with many of those industries. We have to coordinate with the local residents peasants, and the Armed Forces. We even have to coordinate with city historians.

You have no idea how many debates the Lusincho Dam cost. We had to debate what to do about the dam because of its historical background. We adopted solutions that respected historical values. Of course, sometimes it is more expensive to respect those values. However, we respect the criteria rationally. We seek rational solutions. However, in that area, those who go by way of Puente Grande or Boyero do not see that area of 500 hectares between Marianao and Boyeros. There are many problems because yesterday I was told that once fishermen dredging the river had destroyed a pipe draining into the Almendares River. This is a case of destruction through ignorance. It happened because of lack of coordination. That is why it requires the participation of so many agencies, like aqueduct agencies, city agencies, dredging agencies, and others. In that area we will also build the capital city's metropolitan park. It is a very important project and is centrally located. It is going to be equidistant from the main municipalities of Havana. We plan to build a great metropolitan park there, with several types of installations. It will be of great benefit to the city of Havana. It requires coordination by the Physical Planning and Projects Enterprises. A great task is being done there. A brigade of the Blas Roca Detachment is working there with a lot of cranes, trucks, and bulldozers. They are working on the construction of a five-star tourist hotel, which is not more advanced just because of the delay in the delivery of [words indistinct] of the country in that hotel, which is very important because it is a mixed enterprise hotel. The detachment is carrying out a complex task there. It is using new technologies in paving the avenue. The East-West Highway is not finished because it was decided to pave it with concrete. We acquired sophisticated equipment for the job, and we had no experience with that equipment in the country. Now they know how to use it. They have a batching plant that mixes perfectly and saves much cement.

They are paving that avenue with concrete. That avenue will last a good many years. We decided to wait a while for the avenue to be ready. We could have finished it with asphalt, but we wanted to have a high-quality road. We also want to pave with concrete all of the East-West Highway, as well as others roads, as many as possible.

Approximately 20,000 vehicles that in the past traveled on 51st Avenue, through Marianao, are now using this avenue daily, traveling on an asphalt road.

The highway has not yet been completed but it is already being used a great deal because the road linking (Cien) and Boyeros is being reconstructed. People are not allowed to go through Boyeros, and now they have to go through Vento. Via Blanca Street and Vento are now linked. [Word indistinct] has been linked with Vento and Boyeros.

All these areas will benefit from this road construction a great deal. The Vento route, beginning at Via Blanca Street will be greatly enhanced from this. This is also true for the Boyeros Road. No one knows how much the East-West Highway will help the traffic flow.

Today I was with Palmero touring a high-rise building when I saw a long line of trucks. I wondered where so many trucks were going. They were construction industry trucks. There were dump trucks, transport trucks, and so on. It is incredible that 20,000 vehicles use that avenue daily. This gives you an idea of the importance of that work. The contingent is doing work of this nature. The contingent is also building refrigerators, and at a very good pace. The contingent has done the land-clearing for the Pan-American Games and it has had to work on rocks. The contingent has done the land-clearing for storehouses and for bus terminals. The contingent is building preuniversity schools in the countryside. The contingent already has 23 brigades. It was created a year after the creation of the minibrigades movement. It was necessary to find equipment for the Blas Roca Contingent and for dozens of other contingents throughout the country.

The amount of equipment involved is large. I could tell you a lot about that because I have been keeping track of the equipment that has been distributed to each contingent, to each brigade. I personally work on that, on the administration of the scarce equipment we have, the equipment with which we want to build so many things. It has to be distributed in a centralized and careful fashion. Not one machine more and not one less than what is necessary.

Very often we have to get in contact with SIME [Ministry of the Steelworking Industry], CEATM [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply], and the Foreign Trade Ministry to find out when some equipment will be available. Most of the equipment is from the socialist area and also made locally. A very small portion of the equipment comes from the capitalist area. This is why we have been able to do so many things with the few resources we have had available over the years.

We have initiated making dump trucks to save at least 50 percent of what we would have to invest in each truck because we cannot get dump trucks of the type we need from socialist countries.

We are beginning to work on the production of 220-horsepower bulldozers to save 50 percent of what we would have to pay with foreign currency because we cannot get this equipment in the socialist countries, except China, which has a factory that produces 220-horsepower bulldozers of the (Komatsu) type. We have acquired some of those bulldozers. We have tried them and they are working well.

I can assure you that the equipment we have bought from the capitalist countries over the past few years is [words indistinct].

It is incredible to see all the brigades that have been organized, the forces that have been organized, and the work that they are carrying out throughout the country right now. By the end of the year, the equipment reserves drop to almost zero. We are still waiting for more than 150 road levelers that the Guira de Melena Factory has to deliver. It has to deliver more than 200. This year the country has distributed, or will be distributing, more than 350 road levelers. We have imported 50 from the Soviet Union and more than 300 have been produced in the country, in that factory, the factory that produces the dump trucks and bulldozers.

This is an extraordinary figure. This project was initiated to make canals, primarily for the parcel drainage brigades at the sugarcane plantations and the engineering brigades in the rice fields. These two sectors were the main consumers of [word indistinct]. That is why I say that with minimum expense in convertible foreign exchange we have organized a collosal construction force and we continue to organize it. We continue to organize it, [repeats himself] but I want to give you an idea [chuckles] of what we have done over the past three years, since the minibrigade movement was founded. I give this information. Why do I give it? I do so because it will explain why sometimes we do not have all the pickup trucks, earth-moving equipment, or trucks to carry the material needed by the minibrigades. Nevertheless, the minibrigades have not been orphans either. They are very far from being orphans. A good size allotment of resources has been assigned to the minibrigades. I know it has not been enough. Maximo has stated that in some cases more equipment was needed. It is true, but the minibrigades are not so poor. I understand that they would have required more resources and we will definitely continue to allot more resources to them. They have received a great amount of equipment this year. They received a great amount of equipment this year. [repeats himself] The minibrigades, as well as the Havana People's Power organization, recently received a good number of cement mixing drums and trucks to transport material mainly to cement mixers. At that time, the provincial officials stated that they needed more trucks and that this was the problem. I asked them: Are you sure that soon the problem will not be the scarcity of concrete aggregates [aridos]? They told me: No, concrete aggregates are still not needed. Well, I said, get ready. The problem seemed to be that more trucks were needed to transport all the concrete aggregates and

make better use of the cement mixers to be able to have a good and constant supply of cement. Our cement mixers were still able to produce more cement.

Cement is no longer a problem for us; it was the source of our headaches during the first few months. That prompted us to adopt an emergency measure. We asked the minibrigades to build storage bins as fast as possible. We commissioned 25 (Canaa) trucks with their respective trailers that are capable of hauling 25 tons of cement. We asked that good drivers be hired.

We asked the Karl Marx Plant to help us with problems in Mariel. We created a stock of cement mainly for the minibrigades to use. This explains why the minibrigades are no longer complaining about a lack of cement. We have to keep using this cement to prevent it from spoiling. We have 10 trucks with mixers to transport the cement to the storage bins.

We plan to increase our stock of cement because it is always advisable to have cement available should the factory close for a few days or a problem arise. I can expound on the problem involving cement and other materials later. I must point out that we have had to use resources for all these things.

I remember that last year we made available approximately 100 [word indistinct]; 130 of them to bring materials that were not arriving from the countryside and the provinces. These 100 trucks are to aid the minibrigade movement in an emergency situation. Those trucks are out there. They were borrowed; we assigned them permanently. They have not been seen around because block production has increased in the city and they no longer need to haul blocks and other things there.

However, the basic idea I wanted to express is that, besides the minibrigades, we organized other construction forces in the country; we organized colossal forces. The system of dams will not require as much equipment next year because it is nearing completion. Some canals and irrigation systems will need reinforcements. We will need more resources to build such systems. To set up a drainage system in each parcel of sugarcane, we will need to set aside resources in the years 1990, 1991, and perhaps in 1992, because our goal is to have 300 brigades for sugarcane parcels.

We must work on an extension of the 60,000 caballerias. We do not yet know how much more sugarcane production this will entail. We hope to have 15 rice brigades next year. I also hope we will have the 30 brigades we need by 1991 to complete our task in 5 years. We must save water; this is very important. We need to almost double production per hectare. We are involved in this very important task.

Therefore, according to our plans for next year, the (Huira) factory will have to build 350 scrapers and we will import 50 others for a total of 450 scrapers. We will invest in this and in the irrigation and canal systems.

We must get involved in these activities. The main groups will be organized in (Pedraplen), however, they must be reinforced. We need not increase [words indistinct]. We have already helped several fronts. Perhaps we will have some more supplies for the minibrigades to remove the soil. We need more resources because the minibrigades supply winches, concrete, and a number of construction materials. The central government should even supply some of these materials.

We have tried to help the concrete mixer manufacturing industry and discovered that the famous factory Maximo referred to did not make the deliveries of concrete mixers it had to. I had to deliver 50 of them. I still have not delivered 50 500-liter concrete mixers. [Words indistinct] concrete mixers are manufactured by a local industry, but there are too many projects. We must have a concrete mixer wherever there is a project, wherever a terminal or a [words indistinct] market is begun, not just [words indistinct]. Of course, workers prefer [words indistinct] because concrete already prepared is then taken to the site.

However, many projects need a concrete mixer—all sorts of agricultural and urban projects. Minibrigades are supplying themselves thanks to an industry they created, and they do not just supply Havana but also help supply the minibrigades from all over the country. Therefore, we wanted to give the minibrigades more of this kind of equipment, namely, small mechanical diggers and [words indistinct] they are useful. We have had to use almost all of this equipment in [words indistinct]. We have the factory (?working at full capacity). This sort of equipment that can be lent to the municipalities like backhoes and mechanical diggers would be useful in projects.

However, we can supply other equipment to move land and transport some materials, as we have done in part this year. We can do more next year because of the growing needs of the minibrigade movement regarding these resources. We have had problems with the materials. I want to tell you that lately when the minibrigade movement began—and not just the minibrigade movement—when construction got under way seriously and projects were being completed, the country invested many resources in the construction materials industry, especially in the western region. We have done this in all the provinces but the (?bulk) of those investments has gone to the western region. As you know, to support the minibrigade's construction program and the western region, we created a contingent and began to build in record time the [name indistinct] Mill, which had been laid to rest for the past 10 years. It had spent 10 years stored in crates without being built. A contingent, which I believe is named [unidentified person tells him] Abel Santamaria built the mill in record time.

Thanks to that, and despite the scarcity of supplies which is beginning to be felt, we have a big mill set to start producing and helping in construction in the western

region and, chiefly, in Havana. This has been an important effort. La Molina I is being built at full speed, capable of producing 600,000 cubic meters [not further explained]. The Victoria 3d Avenue was built as rapidly as possible. I believe the 4th avenue is being built, right? Isn't it the fourth one? Victoria 4th Avenue. There have been some delays in construction. I think it could have been done quicker, however, it would have been by a matter of weeks or months.

The western region and Havana are having a big problem with supplies. The problem is that all the construction that has gone on in the city for centuries has depleted the province's stone reserves. The reserves of the big San Jose Quarry are just about depleted. The reserves for Havana Province, including the city of Havana, are just about depleted.

That means, [word indistinct] at some time, in a very short time we will even have to change some of the quarries' equipment totally. The sources of supplies will have to be found in locations that are farther away from Havana. We will have to go to Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, and to the center of the country. Well, we have discovered some new things during this time. We had a big stone quarry that was used mainly by Havana. However, the Alacran quarry also supplied materials. We have to get them to Varadero because this is no time to become foolish as we have to construct important projects in Varadero. These projects are very important for the country's economy.

We also have the Alacran quarry. A large mill was constructed there, similar to the one in [word indistinct]. Some mistakes were evidently made in the past. It was reported that there were discussions because of the type of stone found in this quarry. The stones in the Alacran quarry are hard and abrasive. However, they constructed the mill there anyway. This took place many years ago and I do not have any more information about the type of problems that were present then.

We assembled some of the equipment which had been purchased. There had been construction problems with the stone produced by this equipment but the mill was built. One day, however, news came that the stone at the quarry was very abrasive. This was published in a newspaper, but a week earlier I had discussed the quarry problem with the executive committee and the council of ministers. I said that the stone was eroding the industry's equipment and that in theory it could produce 1.2 million [cubic meters] which, of course, it did not produce; it increasingly produced less.

I asked people in the construction material industry to come up with a solution to the problem, to suggest what must be done, because we cannot simply allow the quarry to swallow up the equipment. I asked them to tell us what solutions exist and what those solutions would cost. We recently discussed the problem again: what must be done, what difficulties exist, what problems exist with nontechnological and technological equipment, what steps had been taken, and what consultations had been undertaken with international industries or international companies highly specialized in the construction of quarry equipment.

I asked them to tell us what type of steel would be needed at that quarry to prevent the equipment from being destroyed by the stone and how much it would cost. I asked if it would be necessary to install new mills of a different type, if the mills currently in use could be adapted, or what could be done to at least maintain the current production rate, prevent a decline in production, and dispose of half a million of our (?cubic meters) of stone; I asked how mill No 2's work on these 600,000 cubic meters of stone and sand in the western part of Havana could be stepped up in order to have them in reserve for a number of years. Two mills could be installed. I asked what had to be done, what steps could be carefully taken to guarantee the capital city's growing need for stone and sand, including the operation and increased production at the (El Puri) mill in Santa Clara.

In other words, we have adopted measures, taken steps, and demanded to be told what steps should be taken to prevent a shortage of stone and sand. I am not talking about sea sand, which once prompted a big discussion; I am referring to washed sand. How many locomotives and wagons do we have to transport material? How much is the Cardenas factory doing? How much can it do in a year? What is needed to guarantee the transportation of material?

The situation is somewhat paradoxical. The abrasive stone that destroys the equipment is also the best stone for construction. There are certain types of projects that require exactly that kind of stone because it is a high quality type of stone, despite its effects on the equipment. I wonder if man has not invented a type of steel that is hard enough for that stone. The quarry is in Matanzas but it is not too far from Havana. (El Puri) is much farther, it is almost in the central part of the country; the quarry in question is in the western part of Matanzas. We must not give up on roads made from high quality stones. What we must do is find an adequate means of exploiting the stone. My point of view is that we must not quietly give up or yield to the stone at the Alacran quarry, but instead seek and use adequate industrial equipment for its exploitation. We want the entire world to come and see many places where hard stone has been used; that hard stone has certain attributes.

Today, I am explaining some of the problems that we might encounter with the materials. We have another problem with cement, depending on the Artemisa factory and on the Mariel factory, which is a great factory. The Mariel factory was designed and built to have much higher production than what actually has been the case.

It was designed to have production of approximately 1.4 million tons, yet the highest production it has reached is about 900 [as heard]. Naturally, measures were adopted

in various plants to increase production. We managed to increase production up to 3.8; by 1980, it was expected to reach 4.2; and by 1990, it should have reached 4.6 [figures as heard]. The truth of the matter is that the plant did not have the technical conditions to reach such increases.

We must reconstruct the plant at Santiago de Cuba. There is much construction work going on in Oriente. I will give you one example: After revising the projects and reducing the projects we mentioned, the Cauto Dam that I mentioned earlier requires 150,000 cubic meters of concrete. We have to make a concrete barrier at a certain point, due to the topography of the area. The [words indistinct] Granma, where it is more difficult to take the cement, because it has to be taken by sea. The one in Santiago is no longer sufficient for Santiago.

And how about Guantanamo? We went ahead with all the work to make the contract in the least time possible and [word indistinct] the cement factory with the GDR, with two lines of 300,000 [figure as heard]. We have discussed this at great length for new lines of 60,000 [figure as heard] in Artemisa, where one or two more lines can be installed in Ciguatey and one or two more in Santiago de Cuba, in addition to reconstructing the present ones, and reaching the capacity goals.

But before we speak about capacities, we must take the Karl Marx Plant to its full capacity, which is about 1.5 tons; that capacity has not been reached. Efforts are being made with national cooperation, and with the cooperation of the GDR, which supplied the plant, so the the plant will achieve its capacities. Including the new contracts that are being negotiated, we are definitely working on plans to produce over 5 million tons of cement. Cement exports have been suspended, except for some small amounts that we send, for example, to Guyana in exchange for lumber, or some other very small exports. All other cement exports have been suspended. We are working very hard on this industry.

However, this year Mariel gave us some problems. Early this year—and in the western part of the country, no less—there were problems with the shifts, and all sorts of other problems that considerably affected the production of cement in the first stage of the year. What did we do? We asked Artemisa to make an effort. Some members of the Blas Roca Contingent were sent to Artemisa. Some measures were taken, the Artemisa comrades—who were producing 1,400 tons daily, or about 1,300—increased production up to 1,700. That was some effort to produce several thousand more tons of cement.

We asked the Karl Marx Plant to make an extra effort. Some equipment was sent, including some cranes, some trucks, some bulldozers. Both the cement industry as well as the quarries have to be provided with cranes and bulldozers, and so forth. Now, the Karl Marx comrades are producing 100,000 tons more of cement. We asked the Mariel comrades for a special effort. A clay pit closer to the factory was opened; the corresponding resources were alotted, and they were able to surpass their difficulties and problems and thus maintain relatively good production of cement. We asked the Karl Marx Plant to make a special effort, to produce 20,000 more tons.

Parallel to this, we dedicated a white cement factory, which is another material that we have been lacking and that is so useful. In a very brief period of time, we purchased, installed, and started production at a white cement factory in Ciguatey. It has a capacity for producing 100,000 tons per year. We even have a certain export capacity of white cement, because if we consume 50,000, that means there is twice as much as we need. To tell you the truth, the plant is producing a very high quality cement. Naturally, if the plant produces white cement, it stops producing grey cement. Now, there is room for a new line of action, to expand production.

These are the efforts that are being made in cement production, the efforts that have been made this year in the creation of a reserves. All of these measures that have been made entail a big sacrifice. We allotted $15 million to remodel and rebuild the Mariel factories; $15 million in cash in order to increase the Mariel production by an additional 400,000 tons. That money has been invested in purchasing the component parts and the equipment. The factory was scheduled to shut down for at least 45 days in February. However, it will have to be shut down nearly 2 months.

When we were confronted with the fact that the Mariel factory will have to stop production for 2 months next year, we decided that we had to create reserves of at least 80,000 tons. We then proposed an idea: no reconstruction in February, just some maintenance work until June. That is the month when there should be rain, unless we have the same situation like this year, when it did not rain in June.

We then decided to do the reconstruction work in June instead of February when it does not rain. We decided on reserves. Then, we decided to do away with production. This will have some repercussions, of course. Perhaps in July, we will give vacations to many people. June and July coincide more with the family vacations. We could work with our reserves in June, with whatever reserves we have, and with whatever production there is at the Artemisa factory, or the Karl Marx factory at Cienfuegos. Once we have all the components, materials, and equipment, we can shut down that monster, that factory. We must first have all of the components and all of the equipment; we cannot be without even one screw. Once we have all of that, we can then stop that factory for 2 months, and later launch it into production with a much greater capacity. Thus, we are going to have to reconstruct Mariel as we go along.

A truly specialized force, having sufficient people, working day and night will do the remodeling and reconstruction that has to be done in that factory next

year. In other words, it is evident that efforts are being made in the cement and construction material field in general.

Next month, a very modern brick factory will begin operations to produce at least 30 million bricks. It will be a completely new factory. Instructions have been given to accelerate the construction of a [word indistinct] factory in San Cristobal; it is to be built full steam ahead to see if it can be completed.

We have made investments in tiles, sanitary equipment, and electrical cables. We have made investments in grey and malleable steel used for making sanitary connections. In order to expand production, we must work full steam ahead in the iron factory. I believe it is called the Casio Martinez factory.

There is a factory that produces plastic tubing. In all of these industries, there are some problems when it comes to the connections. Ten factories are being completed in the provinces that make the steel connections with a capacity of 400 tons each. We have to invest approximately $100,000 in imported components for each one of those factories. Those are not the greatest industries, but they help to solve problems. In other words, we had tripled the production of aluminum by the time we organized the minibrigade movements. We are completing the foundry in order to utilize again the raw material, the local scrap metal, in the operation of these plants.

There is not a single area of the construction industry in which huge investments have not been made. This is very important, particularly because of the time at which these investments were made. Allow me to tell you that approximately $100 million has been alloted to the construction industry. Approximately $100 million in convertible currency for the entire industry I am talking about, approximately $100 million.

Moreover, the investments were made quickly, decisions were made quickly, instructions were given for the immediate purchase of the equipment that had to be purchased, and for the construction and equipping of installations at full speed. This is the policy that has been followed in the construction sector.

I must also tell you that many of the products that must be imported, the famous finishing products, very often delay our work and prevent us from producing all that we can. These finishing products are used primarily for housing. The [word indistinct] factory in Guanabacoa has become an excellent industry that produces at full capacity. It is one of the best organized industries in Havana. There are times when we have limited financial resources for certain raw materials that must be brought from convertible areas [areas convertibles]. The problems do not lie in the factories but in the limitations the country faces in purchasing all the raw materials that are needed.

I must tell you that the country has made and is making huge efforts to solve all of these problems. You have seen all that we have done in the farming and construction sectors. We will not relax our efforts. We will look for the stone, sand, cement, equipment, and all the materials that are needed.

We have analyzed age-old problems such as what to do to increase telephone communications in the capital; we have purchased a telephone cable factory—we used to invest $30 million on cables every 5 years—to create an industry to support our telephone system, we have made efforts, invented ways to obtain the necessary amount of equipment, and to install—in relatively little time—the telephones available in the capital.

A great effort has been made with limited resources and we must, therefore, administer those resources very carefully.

However, I must add that we saved [words indistinct] in cement related items. I am going to prove this: In 1985, MICONS used 720 kg of cement for each cubic meter of concrete; 720 kg of cement. This year—here is a good example of what can be done and what should be done—only 450 kg of cement were used for each cubic meter of concrete. This means that almost half the amount of cement was used and we have saved almost 300 kg of cement per cubic meter of concrete. What has helped us the most to confront the difficulties in the big construction program we are implementing this year? The savings in cement, the savings in cement. I say this once again. the savings in cement. Without these savings, the approximately 3.7- or 3.8-million [currency not specified] we had alloted for cement would not have been enough and we would have problems with cement. The savings policy still has a margin; it still has a margin [repeats each word slowly]. I want to tell you, for example, that the concrete used by the Blas Roca Contingent to construct the pavement is a really hard concrete.

However, they use a batching plant [preceding two words in English] which, using a computer, indicates the two.... [changes thought] Do you know how much cement per cubic meter of concrete the Blas Roca Contingent uses to pave the East-West Highway? They use 360 kg of cement per cubic meter. Of course there are really hard and less hard types of concrete. However, this kind of pavement shows how to obtain the required strength with the minimum amount of cement. I have been wondering, how is it possible that at one time they used 720 kg? Of course they must have been wasting the cement by the truckloads to spend 720 kg. People must have stolen a lot of cement. [applause] Can you estimate how much cement was lost and stolen, and how disorganized they were?

Therefore, our goal should not be to simply produce more cement, although we must produce more cement because our plans are ambitious. However, we must save cement; we can still save more. You at the minibrigades should analyze how many kilograms the minibrigades actually use. This morning I was asking the Blas Roca Contingent how much cement [words indistinct] because they are doing some foundations and other works there. They are using approximately eight sacks of cement and

I asked them: How can we save more cement? They are using approximately 400 kg; 400 kg is not a high figure.

Some of our batching plants are old, like those that supply cement to the cement mixers. Many of those plants do not have dosimeters. Therefore it is very important that we see what can be done with these old plants, because we cannot suddenly replace all of them. We have to know what can be done, how much money we can spend to make important savings at the batching plants. As a rule, batching plants use less material than the cement mixers because thousands of people are mixing cement, sand, and stones. At the batching plants, a few people control the process. We have enough capacity at the batching plants to make the concrete we need. We have enough cement mixers to carry all the concrete we produce. Here, we are installing cement mixers on (?Soviet trucks). We have enough trucks to transport [words indistinct], that is not a problem. The problem may be at the crushing plants. We must repair the cement mixers to [words indistinct] the cement. [Words indistinct] said it this morning. How much does the cement mixer we bought—for the sophisticated machine to pave the roads—cost? It cost $250,000. How much does it produce? [Words indistinct] 70 cubic meters. However, I thought: With the concrete it saves, we could pay for the cement mixers in a year. These are very modern cement mixers. We cannot do this overnight because we have so many needs. If we have 10.... [changes thought] With $2.5 million to buy 10 concrete mixers and replace all the cement mixers we have in the capital, first we would have to ask ourselves: How many other projects also require $2.5 million? We have to work with the resources we have available. We should find out how much it would cost to install dosimeters and to fix the plants. Saving resources in [words indistinct] is very important.

It has been proved that it is possible to make concrete of excellent quality with a specific and reasonable amount of cement. The concrete does not turn any harder; on the contrary, what they do is simply add cement instead of sand and stones.

Well, cement is something we definitely have to save. I believe we all know this. However, there is something we have to save more than cement. It is lumber, lumber [repeats himself]. This item is truly very difficult to stretch. We have lumber business with the Soviets; it is a joint firm located somewhere in Siberia. However, we do not know when the firm's lumber will be available. We do not know. We know the projected time and we agreed to send workers to the area and they are there now. It is icy cold and conditions are very harsh [words indistinct]. We sent Cubans to get lumber. They have obtained lumber but not the amount we initially planned to get; we had planned on 400,000 to 500,000 cubic meters. They obtained lumber but not [word indistinct]. We have tried to resolve the lumber problem by getting it elsewhere but it has been difficult. We are increasing our local production of hard lumber, precious wood, [words indistinct]. We are about to start our lumber production with the pines we planted in the past years. Lumber is one of our most limited resources.

Recently, we discussed the production of boards made out of waste pulp at the Executive Committee. We talked about how much we are able to produce and how much we are presently producing. We also discussed what would be required to give our furniture production a hefty push. We are inaugurating [words indistinct] and are taking steps to ensure even greater furniture production. Above all, we are taking steps to increase our production of raw material to promote another field that is needed by the country: home furniture production. We have good raw material available to produce quality furniture. We have it available and are working in that direction. So, we have lumber to build furniture but this type of lumber is no good for construction. It is no good. Cuba can produce artificial wood and could have approximately 100,000 cubic meters available. We have studied what we can do with this lumber, what are the country's total needs, and the steps we have to take to attain this goal, how many furniture stores presently exist, etc, etc. The study includes the new [word indistinct] that are being constructed in Guantanamo and that will produce furniture made from precious wood. The furniture is to be sent to stores and other installations. The lumber used to make this furniture cannot be used for construction. Perhaps we should have bought a few factories to make artificial lumber but this would not have resolved our lumber problem. Sometimes....[changes thought] We, however, need lumber for construction, lumber for packing purposes, lumber for many things, and we also need some lumber for furniture because furniture construction requires more than the artificial lumber we use.

We are also studying the possibility of substituting the lumber used for packing vegetables, etc, and lumber in general with plastic as we already have a number of machines that produce plastic containers. However, I know we can produce a lot of lumber by saving lumber. I was amazed when they [not further identified] stated here that they had given somebody a bonus, a prize because he managed to recycle lumber four times. Lumber used four times! That really is [word indistinct] a feat, or maybe it was a mistake made by the person who reported the event, or perhaps we are crazy. Lumber can be used 20, 25, and even 30 times, gentlemen. [applause] It is not used that many times by whim; not by whim. The use of adequate technical means is required. This is another matter we have been studying in the past months. What we can do is [words indistinct] and have them reinforced with metal plates. First we would have to use steel as a substitute in construction. Steel is used 100, 150, 200, or 300 times. [Words indistinct] but, where do we find steel and how much do we have available? We have instructed the construction minister to immediately start producing steel casts. We will get steel, but how much do we need?

Obviously, the initial investment is very large. We would have to get the steel from capitalist countries because the

steel we already have from socialist countries is no longer available; there are [words indistinct]. Therefore, we would have to calculate the price of timber and the price of steel. The initial investment would be greater, but there is no doubt [words indistinct]. We were developing the steel molds [words indistinct]. However, we are developing timber molds, made adequately and with the required protective treatment.

In Santiago de Cuba, they have managed—I do not know what name they have given to the molds, I do not know if they call them boards. What did you say? I know they are modules, we were talking about that not long ago. Did they call them boards? What did they call them? [Men shout: Molding.] No, it is not molding [encofrados]. Molding is what they use now. However, we can be careful with the timber used in the molding so that it can be reused. There are some chemical products that protect timber from oil. Moreover, I think the product to protect timber is an asphalt byproduct. I think they call them boards, wood boards.

A few weeks ago I asked the comrades in Havana how was the timber situation. I imagine it is very difficult. Right. From a relatively small reserve, the minibrigades were given 3,500 cubic meters of timber to make boards. The timber should be used as many times as possible: 10, 15, 20, 25 times. I mean the timber, I am not talking about the steel molds. We are using the timber three or four times; that is what we are doing. We ruin timber, we saw it anyway we want to, we do not take care of it.

The MICONS already has some positive indexes on the use of timber. In 1985, they were using 1 cubic meter of timber for 28 cubic meters of concrete, or they were producing 28 cubic meters of concrete with 1 cubic meter of timber. A few weeks ago, when we analyzed this issue, the MICONS was producing 45 cubic meters of concrete with each cubic meter of timber. We must increase that figure to 90 cubic meters. Let us assume we triple the use of timber. I do not think that if we triple the use of timber we would achieve the maximun usage. However, let us assume we triple the use of timber. Then, 100,000 cubic meters of timber turns into 300,000 cubic meters of timber in the construction sector. One hundred thousand cubic meters of timber used with this technique would turn into a minimum of 300,000 cubic meters. You cannot imagine what it takes to get 50,000 cubic meters of timber.

I am telling you this because in Pinar del Rio we are doing everything. I have not mentioned the brigades assigned to work in the forest to exploit timber. I did not mention the new sawmills we are buying. We are making a great effort to get 50,000 cubic meters of timber in addition to the current timber production. We can turn production into a minimum of 150,000 cubic meters of timber. We should not get our timber in Siberia. We can get some of the timber we lack in Siberia. We must get our timber here by using timber in the correct manner. We should get our own timber. Two brigades to work in the construction of roads; one sawmill to get 35,000 cubic meters of timber, a second one... [incomplete sentence as heard]. Many different trucks of all kinds are needed to get 50,000 cubic meters of timber in Pinar del Rio. It happens that we can come up with the equivalent of 100,000 additional cubic meters simply by correctly using those 50,000 cubic meters. I should tell you we are not going to give you the additional timber unless you save timber. There will no longer be any plain reasoning, wishes, or generosity. You will have timber if you know how to save timber. Of course this does not depend soley on you because you do not know the technology. You, however, should not saw timber so much at the construction sites or ruin timber as you do sometimes. Too much timber is used unnecessarily. The minibrigade directorates, the people's power, and the party in Havana Province must make the technology and the adequate systems for the best use of timber use available to you. Of course, next year we want to hear reports saying someone here used timber 15 times. We also want some incentives to be given to the minibrigades that have used timber 15 times. These are realities.

The minibrigade movement is already a force. You are adults. [Castro pounds on the table.] You are no longer the group of amateurs we had during the first year. You have gained experience and knowledge, you have learned construction skills, you know about the tasks, the shortages, and the limitations we have. You know about all that. There are many technicians. I have seen some technicians at the construction sites giving orders, and they gave the right orders. They instructed the [words indistinct] and the workers on what they had to do. I saw a young girl there in the [words indistinct] in the Valle Grande zone. Workers were laying the foundations for a column, for one of the 300 columns they have to put up for that market, and with all the necessary energy, the young girl was telling the men unloading the cement mixer everything that had to be done there to do things right, to avoid using more concrete than necessary, so that the concrete was adequately distributed, and so on. People already have the knowledge. This knowledge can help us a lot in the coming years.

We have mentioned here the work done by the minibrigades over the past 3 years. Maximo read a report. He mentioned that over 15,500 houses have been built. It is less than we would have liked to build in 3 years. However, we have discovered many problems along the road. We must take into account, as Maximo said, that it was necessary to analyze the soil, to prepare the personnel, to make the plans, and to do many things. However, 28,000 houses are under construction. That is a significant figure. The point is to get the materials to finish these houses.

Last year, $1 million was assigned for materials necessary to complete 10,000 homes. What happened? Other materials, not included in the original plans, that were supposed to arrive from various sources, did not. Materials that had to be produced were not for lack of raw material. The country, however, earmarked resources estimated to complete 10,000 homes. It has been proved

that the estimators are now forced to say: We have estimated such and such figures, which perhaps will not be produced because the raw materials failed to arrive. We must pay proper attention to this problem to substantially increase the number of homes under construction in the capital. Since we already have 28,000 homes under construction, it is not difficult to increase the number of completed homes. We have to find a solution to these problems.

The minibrigades, now on their 3d year, have a good record of effort made and works completed. More than 1,550 doctors' offices have been completed and 350 are under construction. We will have nearly 2,000 for family doctors' offices. This is building work in 2,000 different places with 1,000 installations for a service as important as that offered by family doctors. We built 111 child day-care centers in 2 years. Five of these centers were planned for the 5-year plan, but were not built. In the capital, there were 19,000 women, many of them highly qualified, waiting for the day-care centers so they could work. Facilities were built, not for 21,000—we have to multiply 111 times 210—but for more than 23,000 children in the day-care centers. This represents 25 percent more capacity than the needs contemplated when the minibrigade movement started.

There is a completed program for child day-care centers. No important program, such as doctors' offices, could have been completed without the minibrigades. Two other important programs were late in completion: the polyclinics and the special schools. We will have completed the first in a few months. The province is making great efforts to complete, prior to 31 December, the 11 programs that are still to be completed and set in operation, and the 16 special schools that are yet to be completed. The province will make a great effort and will try to complete them prior to 31 December.

Those who have seen those schools, who have seen those institutions know how valuable that effort by the minibrigades is. I think that anyone who visits one of the polyclinics and the physiotherapy gymnasiums and notes the quality of the service they render feels a certain pride, a healthy pride, in knowing that our people have these installations and that our people will have the 74 [rephrases] that our capital will have 74 adequately housed polyclinics. Some are new and some are replacements of installations that were not good for polyclinics. Now, regarding the polyclinics, what the province intends is to build physiotherapy gymnasiums, which are not big installations, at the polyclinics that lack one.

You cannot imagine what it means having available 74 polyclinics with physiotherapy gymnasiums. You cannot imagine it. One has to see it. One has to go there and see people who have problems being treated in those installations. It is then that one sees their moral and human worth.

One has to see a special school—any of them—or see the one in Guanabacoa for patients with visual impairments, for children with eye problems. These schools are hospitals rather than schools. What excellent installations! What humanitarian service they render! What great benefits the handicapped children receive in these schools! One has to see them to know what they represent.

Or one can go look at a school for children with behavior problems, like the one that was recently inaugurated out there in west Havana, at La Lisa Municipality, and see the boys there, who have become criminals. What changes, what transformations those schools... [changes thought] What would be the destiny of those adolescents without those schools, and many others, like the ones we are building, even for handicapped people? The teachers have to go to the homes of the handicapped nowadays to give them their classes. One can feel pride at seeing the services these schools render, and will feel even prouder in saying that the capital already has the special schools it needed. The program will be completed and the capital will have all of the polyclinics it needs—a complete program. We want these two programs to be completed as soon as possible so as to have three programs already finished and to be able to do other work because we have a great deal to do.

There are many primary and secondary schools in the capital that do not meet the required standards for teaching. There are dark rooms, poorly ventilated rooms, and old buildings. We still have to construct many primary and secondary schools, like the prototype school we inaugurated recently in east Havana. It is [word indistinct] primary school. [Words indistinct] the prototype of a secondary school [words indistinct].

The minibrigades have built 22 bakeries and are now building 18 more, for a total of 40. We have to reach 100 in order to supply hot bread to the [words indistinct] who prefer to find it at the bakery rather than at the shops. There must be many different kinds of bread and it must be of high quality and produced under sanitary conditions. In addition, the bakery is the joint oven of many families who can also send things to be baked there if they do not have an oven themselves. Many families go to a bakery when they have some pork leg or some other thing they want to bake. We have the bakery program pending.

We are now engaged in the minimarkets program. They are 156 [as heard]. Another program we want to finish in Havana is that of the bus terminals. We needed eight, and three were being built for completion in 1991. We said: The problem of the buses cannot wait and if the terminals will help maintain the organization and efficiency of transportation, then we have to build the ones we lack and to remodel the existing ones. Some of these old terminals had been built to handle 50 buses and were handling 150. All of this promoted the disorder in the bus service. Not only that, one of the fundamental causes was the loafers [panza]. Luckily, this has been totally stamped out. The loafing has been stamped out, the way idled workers [interruptos] have been eliminated in many places, because the idled workers were to the

construction field what the loafers were to the transportation service. Therefore, we said: We have to build—and are building—the eight bus terminals.

It was proved that because of manipulation and lack of adequate installations, agricultural products were being lost. A policy to protect and distribute the agricultural products was drafted. Some products will be distributed directly. The citrus products are already being distributed directly by the enterprise. The product will be taken to the marketing center where the distribution control will be handled, however, not a single crate of oranges will be unloaded there. The products coming from far away places on board trailers will be taken to the marketing center. You cannot take a trailer downtown to distribute the products. There are many products, much of which are sent by the peasants, which arrive in trailers. However, the plantains will be sent directly to the consumer from the plantations. They will go directly to the minisupermarkets. We will save ourselves that step. However, it became quite evident that the marketing centers were necessary. And what were we to do? Wait until 1995, 1998, or the year 2000? We needed them immediately because 30 percent of the products are being lost. What does saving half of that 30 percent represent? What does saving 75 percent of that 30 percent mean? Reducing losses to a minimum and selling a good product. Well, the minibrigades are building the four marketing centers. In a few months these marketing centers will be ready, cold storage and all for those products that need cold storage. This represents tremendous progress in the distribution of agricultural products in the cities.

These are important programs. The minibrigades have been working on projects directly related to the interests of the people. They have worked for the material industry because it is obvious that the program cannot advance with the necessary materials. When the minibrigades build family doctor offices, health centers in Havana—the minibrigades have helped build several health centers thus contributing to improving the health services in the capital city—they have been building things for the people. You have seen what the minibrigades did with Expocuba. Expocuba has been a tremendous success. In 8 months, approximately 1 million persons visited Expocuba. Interest grew and in the summer, when everyone thought the people would head for the beaches, more people than ever visited Expocuba. The Expocuba services have improved; the quality of the services was not only maintained but improved. It is a great institution. It will now be the site where the international fair will be held. It will contribute in bringing foreign exchange into the country. Expocuba has to pay for its own construction, and the construction was paid for in foreign exchange. It will pay for its construction shortly.

Now the minibrigades are helping build the installations for the Pan-American Games. Those installations will be great for our youth and people's future. It will be the center for physical culture and sports. It will be a recreation center. When the citizen does not participate as an athlete, he participates as a spectator. These are works that will truly benefit the capital city residents. Some of these programs have already been completed. We have completed the day-care center program, now we will only have to build some six or seven centers a year. The day-care center programs have been completed; we have built more than 100 excellent quality day-care centers. Soon we will have completed the polyclinic construction program. We will have a whole network of polyclinics. Soon we will have completed the special schools programs and soon we will have completed the shoulders we are building along our roads. Likewise, soon we will have completed the minisupermarket and marketing center programs; soon we will complete the bakeries program. All these works are very important for the people. Someday we will be able to replace those old and run down schools we still have. For a good education, the goodwill of the students and teachers is not enough; good installations also help. I am convinced that sooner or later, the limitations that prevented the minibrigade movement from gaining a greater momentum will be overcome as a result of the serious, very serious, efforts being made.

Mentioned here also were other minibrigades, the social construction minibrigades. The report says that there are 143 such minibrigades. I have already been told that there are more than 160 such minibrigades. We are getting rid of those neighborhoods that we had done away with once and should never sprout again. But life, and a little indiscipline on the part of some Cubans, made those neighborhoods sprout again. Some Cubans came of their own accord and made the problem worse.

Undoubtedly, some of you must have done the same thing because I can see you are laughing about it. But, the problem just kept on growing and no measures were taken to resolve the matter. It is quite pleasant to know that today—on the third anniversary of the minibrigade movement—there are 160 or approximately 160 social minibrigades that do very important projects such as the ones in Arroyo Naranjo, in La Guinera neighborhood, in Las Guasimas, [applause] and I recently read a report of what the minibrigades are doing in La Corea. I have not seen those projects but have toured the surrounding area and visited a few homes. I have a clear view of how people live in that area. The homes belonged to people from the Oriente, of course. [laughter] Some of them had just arrived in the area.

Now we must ensure that there will be discipline and the best way we can do this is to turn the problem over to the residents of the unhealthy neighborhood. Let them establish discipline in the area since they were the ones who did not maintain it. And do not allow others to come in. [laughter] Count well, the more people the longer it will take to solve the housing problem. However, it is nice to know that work is being done in those neighborhoods. We did not have these types of minibrigades in the past. It is nice to know that there are more than 300 social maintenance and repair minibrigades. We did not have this type

of minibrigade before. The rest is up to the people. If they can get the necessary materials they could go a long way. We have already studied what the first minibrigade did in Marianao. You should see all that it did. That is the solution and not those enterprises that only know how to steal; enterprises that would charge for materials that were never used. They charged for materials they never used; they were making a profit; how could they help making a profit if they were stealing right and left? I believe that the social maintenance minibrigades are the revolutionary solution to the problem. We found that out when the capital city was having problems with maintenance. The solution to the unhealthy neighborhoods is the social construction minibrigades. You must see what those minibrigades can do. They are an impressive force. Housewives are taught how to build things and they have chosen to continue in the construction minibrigades until all the work is done. And we need them; we still have much to build in the future.

We have also seen the emergence, in the capital city, of the sector minibrigades, the industrial minibrigades, and the hydromechanic minibrigades. We met with their directors, party representatives, youth representatives, and union representatives approximately a year ago. We drafted a plan to develop that industry, to solve the problems at that industry and we created the industrial minibrigade. You should see all that has resulted from the creation of the minibrigade movement and the contingents resulting from the minibrigades; however, that is something separate and I am not going to talk about the contingents here because tomorrow there is a meeting of the Blas Roca Contingent workers. However, all this is the result of the minibrigade movement. A year after the minibrigade movement emerged, the contingents emerged. However, that is a separate matter because of the truly impressive and revolutionary results achieved by that organization.

I have not mentioned all the achievements and successes of the minibrigade movement, however, I think this is enough for this third anniversary. I have mentioned many achievements. You are now struggling to be the hosts of the 26 July celebrations. That is quite a responsibility for the minibrigades. They must do their best for the success of the City of Havana Province so that the City of Havana Province can achieve the honor of hosting the 26 July celebrations. You have much to do and you also have the opportunity to do a lot. When I see what this movement is doing in the capital city I can see that the capital city has a good chance of winning the honor to host the 26 July celebrations. [applause] The truth is that a great movement has been forged, a great movement has been created. It is a tremendous force.

We can now talk about the transformation of the capital because it is currently being transformed. It was not easy. It was not easy to change the capital because it now has over 2 million residents, who live in the smallest province of the country. It has water supply problems and other kinds of problems. Many things need to be done in this city. The reconstruction of the water supply system is a huge task by itself. When a city has over 2 million people, the needs and problems are many. There are old problems that have to be solved.

A large part of the water system needs to be rebuilt. It needs technology. We hope we are able to fix many of the pipes without having to destroy them. We can drill two holes, one over here and one over there.

We have already allocated the funds for the construction of five machines, such as the one we purchased in GDR. Who knows how many more we will need and what kind of organization we will need to repair the entire water system.

How many pipes can our industry manufacture? You have no idea. Do you know how many asbestos pipes we manufacture, for example? We need them for the water system, we need them for irrigation, we need them for the underground cables, and other things. Our country's demand for pipes for irrigation, the water system, and the sewage system is huge.

We are constantly figuring out how many we have and what we have to do. The will to do the job prevails. That is the most important thing. You can see the results of this effort and this revolutionary movement called the minibrigades.

I know you can do much more and you will do much more as you gain experience and receive the necessary materials. You will be able to complete a large number of projects of better quality. Quality is something that concerns us greatly. We do not only want a functional city, we also want a beautiful city capable of preserving its historic values and satisfying the needs of the masses without destroying its beauty and tranquillity. On the contrary, the city can be made more beautiful. That is why we have created a group for integrated development so that things are done in order and so that everything is built where it should be.

Today I want to express the trust we have in the minibrigade movement. We are pleased to see the job you and other construction workers are doing.

I am pleased to say that the effort you are putting forth here is not only felt here. It is not only felt when building houses. The effort is made throughout the entire country and in all fields of economic and social development. I believe this is a very good and encouraging way of celebrating the third anniversary of the rebirth of the minibrigade.

Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Visits 13 March Contingent

FL1210125089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and

Ministers, recently visited the 13 March Contingent which is building the projects for the Jose Antonio Echeverria Polytechnic Institute in Havana.

According to Radio Reloj reports, our highest leader expressed interest in the productivity of the contingent, the way it economizes on wood, its working spirit, and its attention to man. Radio Reloj also reported that the commander in chief said the workers and students of the polytechnic had a great attitude toward the work they carried out. He also praised how quickly they adapted to construction tasks.

The 13 March Contingent is working on the technical information center, a student housing unit, multipurpose workshops for the school of mechanics and one shop for prototypes. Pedro Molina Vega, chief of the contingent, said to the commander in chief that the productivity level per man is high. Out of the average 255 pesos per man, the contingent's average is over 1,000 pesos. Molina Vega also said to Fidel that 42 cubic meters of wood are saved per building by using metallic molds.

Panamanian Ambassador Nieto Interviewed

FL1110193589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1248 GMT 11 Oct 89

["Exclusive" interview with Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba, by Roberto Agudo in studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Agudo] Good morning, viewer friends. An old saying you may remember goes: The best witness is a day after another. As time goes by, one can analyze from the historic point of view a number of determining factors, not only in people but in countries. I tell you this because General Torrijos came to power 21 years ago, precisely, on a day such as today. Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador to Cuba, has been kind enough to accept—let's say—this journalistic challenge. Ambassador Nieto was simply a student, a university student, when Torrijos came to power in 1968. He was a history major. We would like to begin this conversation with these elements. What were your thoughts when Gen Torrijos assumed power 21 years ago?

[Nieto] Regardless of what may be thought, the Panamanian Armed Forces was the only institution left in 1968 after the oligarchy became unable to maintain power and conduct the government. Omar Torrijos came from the lower ranks of these Armed Forces with a group of young officers willing to radically change a number of things the oligarchy was not able to carry forward. This happened on 11 October 1968 in the form of a military coup d'etat. As time went by, it opened an important process of social justice and national liberation in our country.

[Agudo] As you were talking, I was remembering that moment, that 11 October you Panamanians worship so much. Of course, I could not help thinking about what happened a little over a week ago. Another group of military officers, this time linked to the United States, the Pentagon, and the CIA, attempted a coup. Could you—if you can—assess each situation? This would be an expansion of your previous response.

[Nieto] Yes. The year 1968 was a leap forward. A revolutionary process of popular vindications and reconquering of national sovereignty came about from this because of Omar Torrijos' political work and leadership. The attempts that were made recently were aimed at stopping the military vanguard, the country's liberating vanguard, and at reverting our national process by handing over our country to the United States again. This was thwarted. You have seen during the course of time, that in the United States—at many levels, in the Pentagon, among its senators, in its press, in its State Department—there was a lot of blaming each other for Tuesday 3 October because it did not turn out the way they wanted and wished.

In our judgment, the United States not only had its hands in this but its entire body in attempt to take advantage of these circumstances, by helping them. Their ultimate goal—we have consistently denounced this—is to attempt to find a way to remain in our country, in order to make us more docile, to break up our identity, and to avoid giving up the canal and the presence of their military bases in the Isthmus of Panama.

[Agudo] What does Noriega represent for the Panamanian people at this time?

[Nieto] I believe this is a very good and important question because General Manuel Antonio Noriega didn't come out of nowhere. Speaking of Gen Omar Torrijos, I would like to tell you the following. During the 1968 coup, there were several military factions that participated in the strengthening of the country's political-military direction. It was really defined on 16 December 1969.

Omar Torrijos was deceived during a trip he made to Mexico. A military group, together with the CIA station in Panama, decided to topple him. He was in Mexico and decided to return to his country to recover his post, his command, but above all, he was moved by love and patriotic conviction. How did Torrijos return? Torrijos returned in a small plane in a truly daring trip. He returned through the Chiriqui Province on the Costa Rican border. The person that guaranteed Torrijos' return to Panama after that December 1969 military coup attempt was, precisely, Manuel Antonio Noriega. He was the chief of the Chiriqui Military Zone.

Therefore, throughout these 2 decades, Gen Noriega has been for us an extremely loyal man. Thanks to his timely and clear-headed action at that time, the entire process we are talking about was guaranteed for our country. During his military life he has been considered, next to Torrijos, as one of the most notable and complete military officers the Panamanian military has ever produced.

Currently, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces and in light of the events which have taken place in the country since 1985, the end of 1985 to present, the United States proposed to Noriega—Poindexter proposed it—that the Panamanian Army be allied in an interfering policy against Nicaragua. Gen Noriega said no. This kicked off the large campaign against our country, a large campaign against this honorable military man, and a large trap that all Panamanian families and Panamanian people are subjected to.

There was a conspiracy, after our Army refused to participate with the United States in interference ventures, conjured up with its military-hegemonic interest of remaining in our territory. This is what explains the dramatic crisis that has been maintained in our country for 2 ½ years. Therefore, Gen Noriega continues on the path of patriotism, of great courage, and resistance faced with this type of colonialization or neocolonization and hegemenic policies in Panama.

[Agudo] How would you assess what Panama is experiencing today?

[Nieto] We are going through a very delicate situation. Panama is a surrounded country. It is a virtually blocked country. Very serious economic and financial coercive measures are being applied. Nevertheless, the degree of tension existing between the United States and Panama regarding the canal has also created in our people a high and greater level of awareness of the present and future. This is what we call the national resistance and dignity. Despite the truly catastrophic state of our economy, our people continue to organize, our people continue to find significant ways to survive because they trust and believe that we have to sustain the national independence in Panama. Our people have decided. We are not going to go back. We cannot become a colony again. We cannot become a protectorate again.

Torrijos, with the signing of the Panama Treaties and its relation with the Panamanian people, made irreversible the decolonization process in my country. This is why the people are watching, they are organizing, they are readapting their ways to survive within a state of siege and a large economic and financial blockade against Panama. The people are organizing [words indistinct] with the Dignity Battalions.

With this I am telling you that the threats are not over. We are going through a narrow path. Gen Torrijos and Gen Noriega—an extraordinary interpreter of his thinking—have told us that the ambushes will continue until the end of the century. I believe this crisis also benefits our people because of the degree of awareness that decolonization is a struggle and our people have been struggling for 2 ½ years to move forward the national resistance and dignity process.

[Agudo] We thank Mr Manuel Orestes Nieto, Panamanian ambassador, for this conversation, this interview. We also thank you viewer friends for your attention.

Guatemalan Guerrilla Leader Interviewed

FL1010193389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1432 GMT 10 Oct 89

["Exclusive" interview with Commander Gaspar, Rodrigo Asturias, member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, Military Directorate by unidentified reporter in studio during "Morning Magazine" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Greetings comrade. Guatemala always comes up in Central American news. We know little about Guatemala. International news agencies block reports from Guatemala . We have learned that in addition to the atmosphere of chaos and instability, repression has increased in the last 7 months. It was reported recently that 2,000 people have been killed, 2,500 wounded—many of them crippled—and hundreds—over 800 are missing. We have taken the opportunity of a visit paid by Mr Rodrigo Asturias, who is a member of the URNG military directorate and is also known as Commander Gaspar, not only in Guatemala and Central America but throughout the world, to talk and clear some matters pertaining to Guatemala.

Commander Gaspar: Some steps have been taken to find a negotiated solution. That is, steps have been taken to begin a dialogue between the guerrilla and the Guatemalan Government. Some journalists and specialists wonder if the search for a negotiated solution is compatible with the situation prevailing in Guatemala. What could you tell us about this?

[Asturias] I believe this is an interesting question that needs to be clarified. At the end of September, the URNG General Command made a new proposal aimed at finding a political solution to the internal armed conflict our country is experiencing. The proposal to find a political solution and to establish a dialogue as a first step to create the conditions is very important because it entails an increased effort in the struggle for democracy. We do not think of dialogue and negotiation as a demobilization element but as an extremely active element, as a clarifying element, to find and put in place a consensus with democratic solutions. This is why, although there has been, in fact, an increase of repression—which by the way, was brutally intensified last month—the proposal to find a political solution and the call to all national sectors, without exception, to begin contacts, talks, and dialogue with the UNRG despite the fact that the government continues to refuse them and continues maintaining a closed position. It is an important step in the democratic struggle.

[Reporter] Commander Gaspar, pertaining to the last part of your response, what is the basis on which this type of dialogue could be initiated?

[Asturias] Since October 1987, when its first dialogue initiative was established, the General Command has said preestablished conditions are not necessary but that the country's fundamental problems should be included

in the dialogue and in the preparation of the agenda. The main problem the country has and has had in the last few years is the lack of respect toward human rights, the militarization of the Guatemalan society, and the generalized oppression. Therefore, we believe the main point that needs to be addressed in the agenda is the democratization.

[Reporter] Speaking of the internal situation from the military point of view, news agency every day carry reports of missing persons, killings, and tortures. Are the ones everyone knows as the death squadrons increasing their activities?

[Asturias] Indeed, there has been an increase in repression. We could say without being mistaken that there is a terrorist escalation headed by state security forces. It is very important to denounce and to be clear on this because the ones that are carrying out this repression and the ones that are taking forward this terror campaign are not paramilitary groups as the people have been led to believe and they are not extreme-right civilian groups. They are army operative groups whose actions are based on blind charges and suspicions, and who are seeking ways to hit or infiltrate the people's and revolutionary movement. We are faced with an escalation of the strongest state terrorism. It cannot be confused with death squadrons or differences within the right wing. The Army is the one responsible of the repression.

[Reporter] Dwelling on the subject of the Army, there have been times when those who oppose true democracy in Guatemala say there are sectors in the Army that support or preserve democracy. Defense Minister Gramajo has been mentioned in this context. I would like for you, if you could, to tell us what is the military situation within the Guatemalan Army at this time?

[Asturias] Of course. I believe this is a very important time to understand the country's situation in general, taking into consideration that the true power factor and the determining factor of power in Guatemala is within the Army. The degree of differences or problems that can exist there is of great value, unfortunately, a negative value for the development of the Guatemalan society. As a general trait, we find that an internal destabilization process has increased because of the differences within the Army. These differences have taken place and have increased within the framework of an internal breakdown as a result of a political and military defeat the Army has suffered in the last 3 years and during which it did not accomplish the strategic goals it had set. The first strategic goal was to wipe out and defeat the revolutionary movement. Since it did not accomplish this there have been many questions on the way the war has been led, on the way the counterinsurgency has been led. This has resulted in the planning of some coups. There is very strong tension within various commands and factions. There are factions that favor a total war strategy and others the low-intensity strategy. None of the ones that are considered by the top leaders are democratic trends at this time. There are groups, people, factions, within the Army that are at other levels. We, as a revolutionary movement and as URNG, have even had contacts and relations with them at times. They are seeking a political solution. However, at this time they are not part of the top leadership and they do not have a say in the general decision-making.

[Reporter] Gaspar, what is the true situation of the Guatemalan guerrilla at this time?

[Asturias] The Guatemalan guerrilla is going through one of its best times from a military standpoint at this time. After having sustained the largest and more generalized and permanent counteroffensive for 3 ½ years, the revolutionary movement has been strengthened. The URNG forces have expanded its areas of operation, have increased the number of operations, and also—this is very important from the military standpoint—has improved the quality of its operations. In general, the revolutionary movement has had an initiative, it has been able to increase the weakening of the Army, to break and neutralize the tactics they have used against the revolutionary movement. It has placed the Army in a complex and sensitive situation. As we said earlier, is is beginning to show in the political area.

[Reporter] That is, this makes the dialogue, the beginning of the dialogue possible.

[Asturias] It creates important conditions. There is no doubt that the revolutionary movement has been able to turn into the necessary group to talk to at this time from a political standpoint. This is so because of its military development. The Guatemala revolutionary movement is seen as stronger, more developed, and with greater initiative.

[Reporter] This short interview with Comrade Rodrigo Asturias, who is a member of the URNG General Command, has enabled us to get closer to the situation in Guatemala, to learn what is happening and what is being sought, and learn about the interests of the Guatemalan people. We thank Commander Gaspar for his kindness in granting this interview for "Morning Magazine" and we thank you viewer friends for your attention. Thank you very much.

International Radio, Television Meeting Begins

FL1110005389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 11 Oct 89

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Representatives from 14 countries are participating in the 30th session of the radio commission meeting of the International Radio and Television Organization, OIRT, which began this morning in Pinar del Rio and will conclude on Thursday.

Ismael Gonzalez, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, welcomed the participants who come from the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, CSSR, Hungary, GDR, Yugoslavia, Spain, Italy, Mongolia,

Finland, Austria, FRG, and our country. Gonzalez said that this session and its work groups will lead to new initiatives, projects, and agreements on children's, economic, sports, scientific-technical, musical, and other programs, which will strengthen the members' permanence in this organization, founded in 1954.

Radio, TV Marti Discussed

FL1110223589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The 30th session of the radio commission of the International Radio and Television Organization, OIRT, is being held in Cuba. This is the first time the organization has met in Cuba and many debates on this type of broadcasting are being held in Pinar del Rio Province, headquarters of the meeting.

The OIRT is comprised of 23 member countries. Several other countries are also listed as observers and collaborators, including Western states. Ismael Gonzalez [president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, ICRT] referred to the broadcasts made by the misnomered Radio Marti station and the new U.S. aggression consisting of its so-called stateless television.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Our country has expressed its repudiation of this aggression the likes of which has never been recorded in the history of telecommunications. We think it is a precedent that should be avoided. [end recording]

The OIRT is devoted to technical and electronic exchange and cooperation, as well as the development of programs, with the current emphasis being placed on informational programs.

During the second working session, Josefa Bracero, vice president of the ICRT, presented a report on behalf of Cuba.

The 30th session of the OIRT Radio Programming Commission will conclude on Friday at 0900.

Journalists' Federation Official Here for Meeting

FL1010035089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Luis Suarez, secretary general of the Federation of Latin American Journalists, arrived today in Cuba to attend the advisory meeting of the journalists' unions of socialist countries. Julio Garcia Luis, secretary general of the Union of Cuban Journalists, received Suarez at the Jose Marti Airport.

The two officials discussed the prospects for the meeting which will begin tomorrow in Havana.

[Begin recording] [Luis Suarez, identified by caption] It will give us the opportunity to guide our struggle in Latin America for, first of all, confronting disinformation in view of real facts which are not always interpreted truthfully. Secondly, we will be able to reinforce our solidarity and our presence, not only our Latin American presence, but we will also be able to reinforce our presence in the universal arena where there are matters which concern us all. Some of these concerns are: protection of journalists, work safety, access to information.

[Garcia Luis, in progress]...how to inform in a reciprocating manner about the reality of our country. What rules to follow, for example, when this information concerns negative events; what ethics to follow in this. [end recording]

Jose Ramon Fernandez on Pan-American Games

FL1010232189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] The 26th general assembly of the Pan-American Sports Organization, PASO, will meet in Havana from 12 to 14 October. This important meeting will have a 16-point agenda. The most outstanding topics include reforms and the approval of the organization's statutes, as well as the presentation of a report by the committee organizing the 1991 Pan-American Games.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Comrade Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and head of the committee organizing the 1991 Havana Pan-American Games [also education minister], will be responsible for giving the main report at the upcoming PASO assembly meeting.

[Fernandez] This is the most important report given to the PASO prior to the games. The PASO will evaluate all the work that Cuba has done to organize the event. We will evaluate the construction projects. We think that construction has been progressing at a good pace. A great effort is being made in this area and we are convinced that we will give an appropriate response to the games' statements [as heard], demands, and needs.

We will also discuss problems of accreditation. Cuba will allow all athletes and everyone associated with the games—judges, sports officials, etcetera—to have access to the events, in accordance with Olympic regulations. That is to say, Cuba will not treat others as we were treated in Puerto Rico and we will allow everyone committed to our games to have free access to the event. We will analyze accreditation and the Olympic (?stadium) that is under construction.

We will discuss the facilities that will be made available to the press. Cuba has asked for an increase in the number of reporters who will be allowed to attend the games. We will discuss information—the information service that our country will provide—medical services, opening and closing ceremonies, transportation, communications, as well as other topics.

The organizing committee, with its specific commissions, has made a great effort and I think that we can make a very good presentation that has a good basis and it should be approved by the PASO plenum.

[Reporter] Minister, I have a very short question. What do you know about the television broadcasting plans in reference to the policy adopted by the U.S. Government?

[Fernandez] We are waiting for U.S. Government authorities to make a decision on granting a license for broadcasting the games and on payment for the rights to these broadcasts, as is traditional. ABC—the U.S. television network that is interested, very interested, in broadcasting the games—has not given a yes or no answer. ABC has been making arrangements with the State Department and the Treasury Department. Both departments, along with the White House, have been evaluating this but we have no response as of yet. We hope that the U.S. Government will not create an obstacle to the 1991 Pan-American Games. [end recording]

Officials Welcome Returning Internationalists

FL0710133489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1109 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Report by Francisco Hernandez]

[Text] Another contingent of internationalist combatants arrived in Havana City from Luanda on Friday night after successfully fulfilling their internationalist mission in the People's Republic of Angola. The more than 150 officers, sergeants, and soldiers were welcomed at the Havana airport by Osmani Cienfuegos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, Brigade General Carlos Lamas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Colonel Lionel Castillo of the Interior Ministry.

One of the internationalists wears the Calixto Garcia Medal, 25 combatants wear the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal, and all of them wear the Internationalist Combatant and Cuba-Angola Victory Medals.

Another flight from Angola carrying a new internationalist contingent is expected to arrive at the Havana City airport this morning.

Aguirre del Cristo Receives Brazilian Delegation

FL0910221289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2132 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today met with a delegation of Brazilian parliamentarians who are members of the Liberal Front Party.

Aguirre briefed the parliamentarians on the functions of the highest organ of the Cuban Government, ever since its founding in December 1976. He also explained the organ's importance in the strengthening of the institutionalization process which was carried out in the country.

The Brazilian parliamentarians, who represent the States of Pernambuco, Alagoas, and Rio Grande do Sul, expressed interest in all matters pertaining to the ANPP and its local organs.

As federal delegates, the Brazilian parliamentarians participated in the writing of the new Constitution of the South American country which went into effect in October 1988.

Cooperation Talks Held With Nigerian Group

FL1110235989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Report by Gisela Arandia]

[Text] Hosted by the Raul Roa Garcia Higher Institute of International Relations, a meeting between specialists from Cuba and Nigeria is being held in the Casa de Las Americas. The agenda includes topics related to bilateral cooperation.

During their first day of work in Havana, the experts analyzed several topics related to the foreign debt crisis. The specialists agreed on the need for developing countries to unite their efforts to collectively confront this problem which practically has paralyzed the economic life of the majority of the peoples of the world.

Nigeria's (Abud Bacan) stressed that his country and Cuba agreed on the possibilities that exist for confronting the foreign debt crisis. (Bacan) referred to the proposals made by President Fidel Castro and he reiterated that developing countries cannot pay the foreign debt.

Cuban economist Daniel Hernandez gave many details on the possible alternatives to the foreign debt that are currently being discussed in several international forums.

Dr (Chibuso Noki), who has his doctorate in economics, said that it is not possible to create a cartel to confront the payment of the foreign debt. He said: I oppose the term cartel for Third World countries because, in economic terms, the word cartel is applied to a group of sellers whose common ground is that they have a monopoly. The solution, said the Nigerian economist, is to establish a secretariat to analyze these problems. Finding a common platform for the foreign debt is not just an economic matter, (Dr Chibuso Noki) said; it is also a moral problem.

The Cuba-Nigeria talks will conclude on Friday.

Zimbabwe's Mugabe, Envoy Discuss Cooperation

FL1110230089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe today praised the cooperation Cuba renders to his country in the areas of education and public health. Mugabe received Cuban Ambassador to Zimbabwe Alfonso Fraga on the occasion of the conclusion of his mission in that state.

During their meeting, Mugabe stressed that he was aware of the Cuban doctors' work and he stressed the importance of Cuba's help in training teachers. He also expressed an interest in extending this bilateral cooperation to other areas.

Risquet Meets With Ugandan President Museveni

FL1110135089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has met several times with Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him. Identical views on important international subjects were noted during those meetings.

After receiving a greetings message from Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Uganda's independence, Museveni exchanged views with the Cuban delegation and agreed that the foreign debt increase makes the situation of the so-called Third World explosive.

The Ugandan president also expressed admiration for the contribution of the [words indistinct] in Angola and, together with Risquet, expressed hopes that elections in Namibia turn out to be just and genuine.

Mission Formed To Observe Namibian Transition

FL0610130989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Text] The Cuban Government has announced the opening of a mission to observe the process of decolonization in Namibia, which is taking place in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Comrade Alcibiades Hidalgo Basulto has been designated to head this mission. Hidalgo is a member of the Tripartite Joint Commission which watches over the fulfillment of the peace agreements for the southwestern region of Africa. The mission to observe the process of transition is also composed of Angel Dalmau, official of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and Richard Wilson Delgado, member of the Tripartite Joint Commission.

Detente Atmosphere Not Beneficial Solution

FL1110144889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Jose Perez Novoa, Cuban representative to international organizations based in Geneva, has asserted that the atmosphere of detente in the solution of conflicts between superpowers has not benefited developing countries so far. Perez Novoa, who spoke during the 36th meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, favored structural changes in international economic relations.

Argentine Mayor, Others Arrive in Havana

PY1010205289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1206 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Mar del Plata, 10 Oct (TELAM)—Angel Roig, the mayor of the city of General Puyrredon, and Juan Carlos Derosa, the sports under secretary of the General Puyrredon City Hall, arrived today in Havana to attend the regular session of the Pan-American Sport Organization.

This information was released by the General Pueyrredon City Hall Press Office, which received an telegram from Havana.

National and provincial officials have also gone to Havana to attend this international meeting. On Friday, Mar del Plata will probably be chosen as the site for the 1995 Pan-American Games.

Report Says Weather Cause of Plane Accident

FL0610152589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Text] The state commission that investigated the causes of the catastrophe of the IL-62 aircraft, which occurred on 3 September at the Jose Marti International Airport, published its preliminary conclusion on 8 September. During subsequent investigations, carried out in the USSR, and analysis of the data contained in the flight register, black box, it was determined that the main cause of the aircraft catastrophe was the meteorological condition that existed in the airport at the time of takeoff. These conditions were the cause despite the prior training the crew had received to handle the situation.

It was within these meteorological conditions, which could not be foreseen, that the phenomenon known as wind shear took place at the end of the runway. The data in the black boxes proved that the crew's actions in handling the sudden worsening of the prevailing weather—actions which under other conditions would have allowed the plane to ascend, thus gaining altitude and speed—did not significantly influence what occurred later in the flight because of the force of the air currents which definitely caused the catastrophe.

All the aircraft's systems worked properly. The accident was not caused by any other factors related to land security of the flights, the condition of the airport facilities, nor the training or health of the crew.

Venezuelan Airline Begins Flights to Havana

FL1210020789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0013 GMT 12 Oct 89

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Venezuela's Aeropostal airline made its inaugural flight to Havana this afternoon. It brought 110 people from Venezuela, including businessmen from the

tourism sector, journalists, and Aeropostal officials. As of next week, flights will be made on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Among those who arrived on this flight were Clemencia Lopez and Norberto Hernandez, Venezuelan and Bolivian ambassadors to Cuba, respectively.

As I said, this flight will be made every Tuesday and Saturday, beginning next week.

Aeropostal President Roberto Santos told journalists at the airport that this airline will make trips to Cuba in accordance with the diplomatic relations established between the two countries.

Mariel Pays 295,000 Pesos in Demurrage Charges

FL0610163989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1427 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Text] The port of Mariel has paid more than than 295,000 pesos in demurrage charges through September due to the congestion in that Havana Province port. Nevertheless, this situation is showing signs of improvement. It has decreased its inventories to 24,800 tons, thanks to a better rotation system for trucks.

Five merchant ships are now anchored in Mariel with a total of 13,000 tons of merchandise, while 31,000 more tons of merchandise is expected to arrive within the next 2 weeks.

The Mariel port administration reported that the unloading of the Cuban ship "Redesto," which is carrying 2,000 tons of chemical products for rice enterprises, is sitting in the port because of a lack of transportation.

Driver Sanctioned for Students' Deaths

FL0710154189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] The second chamber of the Havana Province People's Tribunal has sanctioned (Rolando Barroso Failon) to 10 years deprivation of liberty. In addition, his driver's license has been suspended and he must pay damages. (Barroso Failon) was found guilty of a traffic accident that occurred in April in which six students died and seven others were injured after their bus, which was driven by (Barroso Failon), collided with another bus that was leaving San Antonio de los Banos Municipality in Havana Province. The accused's guilt was proven during the oral hearing. (Barroso Failon) also caused material damage exceeding 1,000 pesos.

Currency Trafficker Sentenced to Imprisonment

FL1010164489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] A citizen, who illegally trafficked in currency, clothing items, and other foreign goods has been arrested by members of the National Revolutionary Police and taken before the tribunals. The evidence presented by the prosecutor during the oral trial showed that the defendant, Jose Manuel Garcia Oliva, was carrying out these criminal activities. He also has a criminal record including robbery and repeatedly receiving and illegally trafficking with currency.

Actions such as these damage our society's image with tourists who visit our country and affect the development of this important economic area.

The tribunal sentenced this currency trafficker to a year of imprisonment and suspension of public rights for the same period of time. If the defendant does not agree with the sentence imposed he has the right to appeal within the next 3 days following the date of sentencing.

Haiti

Army Disperses Demonstrators; Tension High

FL1110183789 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Tension is very high in the Artibonite, according to the latest reports from Gonaives and Saint-Marc.

Our correspondent informs us that in Gonaives at noon, there were barricades burning. Tension was very high where the barricades had been burning since this morning. [passage omitted]

A demonstration began at around midday. Some 200 people took to the streets to demonstrate, but the Army, which was on the alert, dispersed this demonstration. Our correspondent Patrick Cherilus says things are a bit tense right now in Gonaives and the Army has dispersed the demonstration. Here is Cherilus

[Begin Cherilus recording] [Passage omitted] While chanting these words more than 200 demonstrators took to the streets in Lot Bo Kanal [a section of Gonaives] at around 1330 on 10 October. This demonstration, which would periodically swell then diminish, finally petered out, due to the presence, in a Toyota jeep, of soldiers from the Toussaint Louverture Barracks. This time however, the soldiers neither fired any shots nor beat anyone.

However, in the Jubile Dlo [name as heard] area, where the scheduled demonstration was to have begun, there was no demonstration. Several people in the area who had signed the press release calling for this demonstration told to us that three former uprooters [dechouqeurs]—Joe Lucie, Flauvel, and Jean Tatoune—have been sowing panic among them since approximately 0200, just as they were beginning to burn tires. The young people of Jubile say, further, that Jean Tatoune fired several shots at them during the night. [passage omitted]

Joe Lucie, who was present when the young people of the Jubile area made these statements to us, began cursing. However, when we contacted him to hear his side of the story, he refused to talk. [passage omitted]

We must explain that this demonstration caught on in the Lot Bo Kanal section but did not take place as scheduled in the Jubile section. Jubile people told us the demonstration couldn't be held as planned because Lucie, Flauvel, and Tatoune had been giving them problems in the area. [end recording] [passage omitted].

In Saint-Marc, no demonstration was scheduled. However, there has been tension there since this morning. Our correspondent noted that the Army was on alert there too. [passage omitted] There are many nasty slogans against the Avril government on the walls in Saint-Marc.

Here is (Fritzson Aureus).

[Begin correspondent (Aureus) recording] During part of the demonstration against the high cost of living scheduled to take place in Gonaives today, a flaming barricade made of tires and coconut palms was erected this morning in Chimen Nef, a poor neighborhood at the southern entrance to the town of Saint-Marc. People in the area became very anxious upon seeing this because they didn't know who was responsible for the barricade. The police went on the alert right away and the military barracks for the lower Artibonite quickly dispatched a military truck to the area. However, when the military arrived at the barricade, there was no one to be found.

In that same area, the following slogans were written on several house walls and electric poles: "Down with Avril", "Down with the group of thugs" [sans maman] [generally, thugs; however, there is a particular group of thugs, known as the Sans Mamans, in the Saint-Marc area], and "Down with the high cost of living." [passage omitted] [end recording]

Panama, Noriega Solidarity Committee Formed

FL0710161089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Excerpt] As previously announced, a committee called the Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee [Komite Solidarite Ayiti-Panama] has been formed in Haiti to show solidarity with Panama and General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee held a news conference yesterday morning at Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID] headquarters to set forth their position on the crisis Panama is currently experiencing.

According to Idli Cameau [official of the Haitian Workers Committee] any given people's struggle is a concern to all people.

Associated with this Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee are:

Cajuste Lexius, who represents the metropolitan area's public transportation drivers union [the Central Union Federation of Transport Workers of the Metropolitan Area].

[Jean] Auguste Mesyeux, who represents the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH.

(Godard Urbain), who represents the Coordinating Body of the Youth of the Central Plateau [Koordinasyon Jenes Plato Santral].

According to a statement read by Mr Cajuste Lexius, the objective of this committee is not only to struggle against U.S. imperialism but also to inform the Haitian people of the violations of the human rights of the Panamanian people.

According to the speakers, the events occurring at present in Panama might have repercussions in Haiti.

We will have you listen to these speakers' statements during their news conference held yesterday at KID headquarters.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The role of this committee is to morally support the battle the Panamanian people are waging against Yankee imperialism's (?heavy-handed) actions and to inform the Haitian people of the situation. This is a situation where the heavy-handed Americans are attempting to trample Panama's autonomy. Today, all Haitians should be made aware of the fact that the pain of any little people is the pain of all little people. What is happening to Panama today could happen to Haiti tomorrow, just as it did in 1915; and just as has already happened in many countries, such as Cuba, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and so forth.

What big interest are the Americans defending heavy-handedly on Panamanian territory? The business of the canal. The Haitian people have something to do with this canal because many of our Haitian compatriots died building the canal, just as did many other West Indians.

The canal represents for the Americans two things. First, it is an important strategic point. Second, it is a big source of income because at least 24 ships go through the canal every day and each ship has to pay between $75,000-$100,000. Furthermore, it is a shortcut for ships traveling to and from diverse countries all over the world.

The Americans want to get rid of Noriega because of the 7 September 1977 Torrijos-Carter Agreement, which gives the Americans a deadline of 31 December 1999 to withdraw from Panamanian territory. They have established a large military force of some 12,000-15,000 American soldiers plus officials controlling the canal.

Under the Torrijos-Carter Agreement, Panama is to assume control of the canal as of 1 January 2000. Today, the Americans are uneasy. The deadline is drawing nearer. They have only 10 years left before they have to get out. They are not honoring their word as per the Torrijos-Carter Agreement. They are trying to overthrow Noriega who is not listening to any pleas concerning this matter. Then, they could put in a puppet government that might agree to another agreement, an agreement that will be in the Americans' interest. [end recording] [passage omitted]

33 Organizations Form 'Pressure Group'

FL0610200189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Oct 89

[Excerpt] At a news conference yesterday morning at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel on the Champ de Mars, the 33 political, people's, and union organizations that called for last 27 September's general strike announced the formation of a pressure group called National Assemblage [Rasambleman Nasyonal]. In a statement read by Mr Evans Paul, alias K [for "Kompe"] Plim, who is the National Assembly's secretary general [and an official of the Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID], these 33 organizations thanked all the sectors of the nation that participated in the 27 September strike. The nation had been asked to mobilize and adhere to this strike.

Rene Theodore, the secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, said this new pressure group is going to undertake a series of actions to collaborate with General Prosper Avril's government in Haiti. [as heard]

[Begin Theodore recording] The Assembly is meeting the press for the first time since the strike. It is therefore normal that we evaluate the impact and significance of the strike on both the national and international levels.

Second, as the statement says, the Assembly has come out of the strike morally strengthened. Of course (?this) is an expression of the need for Haiti to have a counterpower, a power of inspection a power that even can orient the government and government decisions in the direction of the interests of the nation and the masses.

This is the aspiration that the Assembly has come here today to express before the entire Haitian people and the entire world. It has come to state, first of all, that it is going to make an effort to strengthen itself to become a political force capable of imposing solutions, of forcing them [not further identified] to carry out solutions. That is one thing.

Second, the Assembly aspires to being a counterpower; yes, but a counterpower that aspires not only to orienting the government but also, as the de facto power that it will be, to playing a leading part in the political decisions made in this country. This aspiration too has been expressed here this morning.

How can these aspirations materialize? This is going to depend on the Assembly's ability to mobilize the Haitian people to continue to take all kinds of possible actions. Powerful, calm actions, actions just like the one it took the other day—and perhaps even other forms of action, so that it can get the decisions it reaches, the orientation it is going to provide, applied. Perhaps it will even manage to form an executive that will accept control and that will itself be capable of ensuring a truly democratic transition.

All these things have already been discussed, within the Assembly, during the private meetings we have held to prepare for the news conference or during the preparation of the strike itself. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Drivers Union Threatens 'Action' in 15 Days

FL1010190089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The Union Federation of Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers, or CSTP, which is affiliated to the Confederation of Haitian Workers, or CTH—formerly known as CATH/CLAT—has invited the government to engage in dialogue. At a news conference at CTH headquarters yesterday morning, CSTP President (Naly Beauharnais) denounced the improper conduct of the soldiers who seized the license plates of parked public transportation vehicles on 27 September during the general strike called by 33 organizations in Haiti. (Beauharnais) said that the drivers have not to this day been able to find out exactly what military corps seized the license plates.

Also, the CSTP asked the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications to give it a good explanation of what has happened to the large amount of money released in 1987 to (?widen) the Carrefour Road. We will have you listen to Mr (Beauharnais).

[Begin recording] [(Beauharnais)] We are giving them 15 days to make some kind of statement on the Carrefour Road; to explain what they did with the allocated money or tell us clearly if they are no longer going to build the road. [passage omitted]

After 15 days, if there are no results... [changes thought] We of the CSTP, and most particularly those of us in the union, are always in favor of dialogue. We understand dialogue.

We are going to take action after 15 days. [passage omitted] After all the talking that was done regarding the Carrefour Road, if they don't respond at all, we will consider them to be of bad faith. At that point, we will take action. [passage omitted]

I cannot at this point tell you what we are going to do because that depends on the union's grassroots. [passage omitted] Forty million dollars had come in. [passage omitted] We want to know if they are no longer planning to build the road. Or is it that the money is no longer there? If the money isn't there, they must tell the drivers and the entire Haitian people where the money went—because the money came in. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Blames Insecurity on 'Macoutes'

FL1110150789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer, in French] The Union Federation of Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers [CSTP] is demanding an explanation from the minister of finance regarding the project to widen the Carrefour road, to

which several million dollars have been allocated. The members of this union federation held a news conference yesterday.

[Unidentified reporter] [Passage omitted] The union federation says the drivers have been waiting patiently for a long time for a number of authorities that refuse to say where, how, and why the money has gone. [passage omitted]

Regarding the ever increasing insecurity, the union federation says it is not surprised because there are only 7,000 policemen to provide protection for a population of 6,000,000. The union federation says 7,000 police are not even enough for the population of Port-au-Prince.

Who does the CSTP think these perpetrators of death are? What solution does the CSTP propose to this big threat? CSTP president (Naly Beauharnais) answers.

[Begin (Beauharnais) recording] It isn't the unionized drivers who are doing (?that). Not at all! It is evil men who are still out there—macoutes, or (?secret police) detectives whom Namphy left behind in Haiti and who are now still active. It is these people who are taking to the streets in taxis in the evening. They even operate in the daytime. Just yesterday, a young lady from Jeremie got into a taxi that one of these guys was driving. He did a number of things to her and then robbed her! [end recording]

One of the proposals, made by the union federation, on how this insecurity could be combatted was that the number of police posts be increased. The union federation feels there are not enough to meet the nation's needs.

Gonaives Demonstration Fails To Take Place

FL1110170989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] [Announcer, in French] We have finally been able to contact Gonaives. The antigovernment demonstration scheduled for this morning did not take place.

The military occupied Gonaives' main streets very early this morning. Nevertheless, flaming barricades were erected in the poor neighborhoods of Raboteau and Jubile Blanc. Our correspondent explains.

[Begin Gonaives correspondent Fegerson Legros recording] The demonstration planned for Tuesday 10 October by the young people of many neighborhoods was not adhered to the way it was planned. The demonstration did not take place.

Many of these young people say they are encountering many problems, because the Gonaives police have been occupying the entire northern part of Gonaives since this morning. The police are patrolling both on foot and in vehicles. The young people say the police could nab you for the slightest little thing.

We will tell you what the situation is like now. At 0900, a few public buses scheduled between Gonaives and Port-au-Prince did manage to leave Gonaives. Shops, small grocery stores, and pharmacies all remained closed. The vendors who sell in the communal marketplace were unable to display their wares. The police, clad in olive green, are patrolling all over town. [sentence as heard] [In Port-au-Prince, the police corps wears blue uniforms] The communal marketplace area is surrounded by police troops.

Schools did not open today. All schools remained closed. Only public offices are open.

We also noticed tires burning in many parts of north Gonaives: for example in Raboteau, Jubile, and Lot Bo Kanal. Everyone has remained home and is following events.

That's what the situation is like at present. We are following events and will keep you informed. [end recording]

[Announcer, in French] As we said a while ago, a barricade made of old tires and tree branches was burning this morning in the town of Saint-Marc. For the time being, Saint-Marc is quite calm. In Gonaives, the demonstration scheduled for this morning was not held.

[Second announcer, in French] We remind listeners that this demonstration had received the support of several political organizations from Port-au-Prince.

MPP Leader Explains Formation of Youth Movement

FL1010183489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer, in French] In Hinche, regional leaders are organizing, following the publication of the electoral calendar. Meanwhile, the MPP, or Papaye Peasants Movement, is establishing youth organizations.

[Hinche correspondent Alix Joseph] Ever since the electoral calendar was published, several politicians—who have been as silent as graveyards on the different upsets that have occurred in Haiti—have begun stirring in the central plateau. Politicians who fell from power in the overthrow of Leslie Manigat's government are slowly relaunching an electoral campaign in Hinche, especially in the poor neighborhoods.

Also, a new organization has appeared on the political scene. It is called Youth of the People of Hinche [Jen Popile Hinche], JPH. It is associated with the MPP.

Who formed this organization? Where did it come from? Where does it want to go? We asked these questions of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the MPP's coordinator, during an interview he granted Radio Metropole.

One of the MPP's greatest dreams has been made concrete. This is a big, important step—for us to have set up

12 youth groups in Hinche, said Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, who admitted that despite the efforts of the MPP leaders, the young people of Hinche had not yet been enlightened. However, after a trip he made to Europe in October of 1988, (?he), together with several European organizations, decided to set up the JPH.

[Begin Jean-Baptiste recording] So that's how, with a few young people who understood, we began thinking on how to begin helping the young people of Hinche organize themselves.

To this day, there are still many parents who are intimidated. [laughs] Some of the young people even have relatives elsewhere who say to them, upon hearing that they have joined a youth group: Shriek! You are going to join one of those communist groups? And so forth.

Some of the (?parents), poor devils, don't understand a thing and still allow themselves to be intimidated. However, there are many young people who do understand. Indeed, for the past few months now, we have begun to see youth groups forming—groups that are receiving training, that are analyzing the country's reality, and that are going to take concrete action in Hinche, so to speak. They are going to, little by little, be able to do things that will provide relief to the poverty of the young people and the people that live in the poor neighborhoods in Hinche. They are going to, step by step, participate increasingly in the process of social change that the MPP has pledged itself to, so that the youth of Hinche will also participate in the struggle for this change. It is their right and their duty to participate in this process of social change. So, we are going to make every effort to put an end to the differences between the poor in the towns and the poor in the rural areas. [end recording]

[Joseph] Regarding the Marche a Terre statue, which was a symbol for the peasants and was destroyed over the weekend, Jean-Baptiste considers this valid proof that the American occupation is still in force with a vengeance. Jean-Baptiste wonders how many invisible hands are behind this act of vandalism.

This destruction of the statue, which Jean-Baptiste says was the symbol of the struggle of all peasants throughout Haiti, served to clearly show the people what the forces of death represent and what imperialism represents. Chavannes said the statue of Charlemagne Peralte in Hinche might well suffer the same fate. [passage omitted]

Questioned about the high cost of living, the imminent beginning of the school year, insecurity, the upcoming elections, and General Prosper Avril's government's latest decree announcing deductions from the salary checks of high-ranking employees, Chavannes summarized the five points in a single answer. He said that without popular support, no government whatsoever can resist the foreign forces, the imperialist forces, that ask it to crush its own people.

In any case, a new organization has been formed in Hinche to defend the poor.

Finally, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste called on all people's organizations to be vigilant to block the path to all the forces of death.

This is Alex Joseph in Hinche for Radio Metropole.

Multiparty Coalition Gives CEP Ultimatum

FL1110151489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] On Sunday 8 October, Louis Dejoie II of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN] and Gesner Comeau and Gerard Philippe Auguste of the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] and the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] visited Petit Goave. [passage omitted]

A clash with the Army was narrowly averted in Petit Goave, which was (?rumbling) with anger and ready to explode, says a press release from the MDN's information service.

Also, the MOP/MDN/PAIN coalition has given the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] until noon on 16 October to reconsider its electoral calendar. This coalition is not at all happy with the electoral calendar. [passage omitted]

They ask that the CEP hold presidential and legislative elections in a first step as soon as possible, and that it hold Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections and municipal elections in a second step. [passage omitted]

If the CEP and the military government do not comply with the modifications stipulated by the MOP/MDN/PAIN coalition in its press release, they say they will increase their efforts to mobilize the entire Haitian people.

This is a press release from the MOP/MDN/PAIN coalition giving the CEP an ultimatum with a deadline of noon, 16 October.

Leader Expects 'Worst'

FL1110152289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] More politics: The coalition made up of the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP], the Mobilization for National Development [MDN], and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN] shifts into high gear to demand that the electoral calendar proposed by the Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] be revised. [passage omitted]

These three political leaders [the leaders of the MOP, MDN, and PAIN] are threatening to demonstrate their ability to mobilize the population, should the CEP refuse to take into account their proposals. Hubert de Ronceray of the MDN feels the electoral calendar proposed by the CEP has to be revised. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray] [Passage omitted] Now, our ultimatum was unfortunately not heeded—or only partially heeded. The CEP did put out the calendar in September, as we had asked. However, it served us an unacceptable calendar. [passage omitted]

This time, in a second ultimatum in our Communique No 4, we ask the CEP to quickly envision the demands we formulated in our Communique No 1.

[Reporter] Mr de Ronceray, how do you find the CEP, at present?

[De Ronceray] Well, it seems to me to be a CEP that is handicapped from inside because even some of its members are very dissatisfied with the way the CEP is behaving. I think that everyone knows that this calendar gave rise to manifestations of anger at the National Palace on the very day it was published. Thus, we think that there exists a very great malaise within the CEP itself. As for outside the CEP, the CEP is really greatly decried, scorned, and considered not up to its task, incompetent, and dishonest.

Thus, the situation remains very confused. If these men continue to mock the nation this way, I think the worst should be expected. [end recording]

Minister Reports on Jamaican Antidrug Conference

FL1110160389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Acedius Saint-Louis, minister of interior and national defense, held a news conference Monday [9 October] to report on his mission to Jamaica. In Jamaica, 39 delegates from 23 countries met on 2 and 3 October to find a solution to the problem of drug trafficking

Minister Saint-Louis chastised, without naming any names, those he termed the nation's future leaders who don't collaborate in the struggle against drug trafficking or drug consumption.

We are for the forces of good, added Gen Saint-Louis, who expressed indignation at the fact that Caricom wants to arrogate leadership in the management of aid in the area. The Haitian Narcotics Service this year turned 4,000 pounds of cocaine over to the DEA, or Drug Enforcement Administration.

Caricom does not cover the entire region and our country is not a member of this organization, added Mr Saint-Louis.

For their part, the United States granted Haiti $300,000 in aid so Haiti could struggle against drug trafficking. Minister Saint-Louis deems this an insufficient amount of aid, given the magnitude of the work to be done. [passage omitted]

[Begin Saint-Louis recording] [Passage omitted] That is why we had a little problem with Caribbean Common Market [Caricom], which tried to arrogate leadership of the area, as regards managing the aid for combating narcotics trafficking. Thus, we had to fight, I would even say, against Caricom. We spent almost 30 minutes exchanging ideas to get our rights respected.

I mean, first of all, if we were declared the champion in this struggle—at least for this year—in the Caribbean, I don't see why, even if we could not have been given leadership [English word "leadership" used here and henceforth throughout item] of the area, such leadership should be entrusted to Caricom. It has been proven that we ourselves obtained better results.

Second, Caricom does not cover the entire region. Thus, it would be better to entrust this aid, it is better to entrust.... [changes thought] If it is leadership, it would be better to entrust this leadership to an organization that can reach many more countries, such as the United Nations or Interpol, instead of entrusting it to Caricom. This is because we are not members of Caricom. We might become members of Caricom in the future; but meanwhile, we are not members. All the aid Caricom would be managing was supposed to benefit Caricom member countries. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Besides the title of champion of the antidrug struggle in the Caribbean, Minister Saint-Louis returned with a law proposed by the Virgin Islands delegates. This law will have to be brought in line with the Haitian laws.

[Begin Saint-Louis recording] Haitian drug traffickers arrested abroad can also be liable under Haitian law. That is, if the Haitian law says that the property of drug traffickers becomes government property the minute it is proven [rephrases] the moment you are arrested for illegal drug trafficking, your property becomes the property of the state, even if you are arrested abroad. We don't have this in our laws, but we are going to study the possibility of bringing our laws into accordance with (?this) international law. [end recording] [passage omitted]

A direct telephone line is going to be set up between Haiti and Interpol. This is going to allow Haiti to have first-hand information on drug trafficking.

France Agrees To Donate $5 Million in Aid

FL0610200589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Oct 89

[Text] French Ambassador to Haiti Jean Raphael Dufour, Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship Yvon Perrier, and Haitian Minister of Economy and Finance Leonce Thelusma signed a 30,000,000 French franc financial aid agreement on 3 October. Thirty million French francs is approximately $5 million.

This money is non-reimbursable aid. In French francs, it is destined for helping with the balance of payments. The money is to be used to finance the importing of items

necessary for development. In local currency, it is also to be used to cover priority expenditures for cooperation projects.

France has given Haiti this money to help confront the many economic problems Haiti has.

This has been a press release from the French Embassy in Haiti informing us that France has given Haiti $5 million to assist Haiti with its current economic problems.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Party Unveils Energy Action Plan

FL0910183889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1542 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Oct 9, CANA—The opposition People's National Movement (PNM) has unveiled its plan of action for the energy sector should it form the next government.

The document, released at the PNM's annual conference on Sunday, proposes to encourage the local community to use natural gas for car fuel through tax incentives, the introduction of a new market-related gas pricing policy, new research for use and conversion of the country's abundant gas resources, and stepping up of downstream plant development.

The refining sector is to be integrated into the crude oil production sector as will petroleum marketing and distribution, according to PNM leader and former Energy Minister Patrick Manning. Special incentives are also proposed for the oil service sector in order to create growth in this job-intensive part of the oil industry. Manning said that under a PNM government, Trinidad and Tobago would also upgrade its oil research and development facilities with a view to exporting these services.

The PNM suffered a massive electoral defeat in 1986 after 30 years in power.

Fishing Boat Captain Killed by Venezuelan Guard

FL0910193589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 9, CANA— The TRINIDAD EXPRESS on Monday described the shooting of a Trinidadian sea captain by the Venezuelan National Guard as a tragedy that was waiting to happen. In an editorial, the paper said it was the first time a national of Trinidad and Tobago had been killed after years of skirmishes.

Captain Michael Arnead died Friday after being shot in a clash between the Venezuelan Guard and Trinidadian fishermen in the waters between the neighbouring countries.

"It was, of course, a fatality waiting to happen and the wonder might well be that it has taken all this time," the EXPRESS said.

"It is all very well to establish regulations but the relationship between the peoples living on our respective coasts is so complete, commerce and social interaction so all-embracing that lines of demarcation, even in our respective fishing zones will continue to be ignored," the paper said.

"The results, as Mr. Arneaud's death has shown, can be tragic and the only reason why the tragedy is only on one side is because the other, quite frankly, has the greater fire power," the paper concluded.

Electoral Observation Team Sent to Nicaragua

FL0910225289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2143 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 9, CANA - Trinidad and Tobago has sent a six-member delegation to observe election procedures in Nicaragua at the request of the Organization of American States (OAS), the External Affairs Ministry said. The ministry said the team will stay in Nicaragua until October 23.

OAS secretary general, Joao Baena Soares, asked Trinidad and Tobago to take part in the mission following the agreement by five Central American presidents in the form of the Esquipulas II peace plan.

The plan required independent observers to spend some time in Nicaragua to ensure electoral practices are carried out in accordance with the strictest rules of equal access for all political parties to the media, facilities to hold public meetings, and any other campaign publicity.

Trinidad and Tobago's delegation includes a number of external affairs officials. All costs for the trip are being borne by the OAS.

Alleged Noriega Partner Arrested for Tax Evasion

FL1110163289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0343 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Attorney General's Office (PGR) will take Javier Alfonso Macklis, former director of Milano Laboratories in Tijuana, before a judge with charges of tax evasion and adulteration of medicines.

Macklis, who is linked to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, was arrested at Mexico City's international airport yesterday.

According to preliminary investigations, Macklis is reportedly responsible for evading taxes amounting to 300 million pesos payable to the Finance Secretariat.

Four other people were arrested in addition to the Milano Laboratory former director. Medicines valued in over $4 million were seized. The medicines were stored in two clandestine laboratories that had the necessary equipment to manufacture foreign patent labels, forged boxes, and packaging.

The anabolic steroids being manufactured were used for weight control and muscle changes. They are banned in the United States because of their danger.

The arrested people are: Hector Salgado Herrera, chemist; Felipe Lopez Alcantara, industrial chemistry engineer; Silvia Garcia Anaya and Norma Patricia Vera Murillo, Milano Laboratory's accountant and secretary, respectively.

AFP Reports Arrest

PA1110143489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0815 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Oct (AFP)—The Attorney General's Office [PGR] announced tonight that the Mexican Police have arrested Juan Javier Macklis, manager of the Milano Laboratories, a company in which General Manuel Antonio Noriega is allegedly a partner, for having failed to pay $640,000 to the National Treasury.

The PGR announced in a communique that Macklis, a Mexican national, was arrested last night at the airport in the capital as he was returning from Japan.

The state television network announced tonight that Macklis confessed to the police that he is a partner of Gen Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, whom he met in 1988. The report cites the accused as saying that in 1988 Gen Noriega gave him $800,000 to become a partner in the firm.

The state television report said that in 1988 the company made a profit of $5 million, of which Noriega received $2.5 million "hand-delivered by Macklis." The PGR has neither confirmed nor denied this information.

According to the local press, in addition to evading taxes, the Milano Laboratories processed anabolic steroids of doubtful quality. The official news agency NOTIMEX announced last week that the Milano Laboratories, which were located in Tijuana, were closed by health authorities 5 months ago.

Salinas Departs for Meetings in Peru, Costa Rica

PA1110152589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] At approximately 0300 today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari left for Peru to participate in the third meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination for Latin America. During the next 2 days the Mexican head of state will participate in the discussion of such topics as drug trafficking, the regional foreign debt, the Panamanian conflict, and Latin American integration.

The Mexican president is accompanied by Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo and Communications and Transport Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo, among other officials.

At approximately 1430, Salinas will participate in the summit of the Rio Group, in which the presidents of Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela will participate. After taking part in the meeting of the Group of Eight, President Salinas will travel to Costa Rica, where he will meet with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez.

Costa Rica

Madrigal Advocates 'Collective' Action on Panama

PA1110201489 San Jose Radio !mpacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Report by Hilda Picado from presidential house]

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal has said that he does not know yet what measures the U.S. Government will adopt against Panama. He reasserted that references have been made in many cases about various types of measures, and perhaps not all that has been said has been done. Regarding Costa Rica's position, the foreign minister said:

[Begin Madrigal recording, in progress]...has been the country that has again registered the topic of Panama at the OAS, seeking collective action by the OAS.

We have said [word indistinct] quite clearly upon our return to the country that I was frankly displeased with the latest OAS resolution. In other words, it was an almost (?insignificant) resolution. It was a fearful and very timid resolution. Consequently, I felt that—to defend international law, to defend the inter-American system—an in-depth resolution should be adopted by a collective body like the OAS, and the status of the human rights of the Panamanian people should also be analyzed. These rights include political rights, which are already recognized by a number of conventions.

Therefore, we have a very clearly defined political line in regard to Panama, and we will wait to see what statement the State Department makes in order to analyze the measures. [end recording]

Regarding the steps that may be adopted, the foreign minister reiterated that there are various paths that may be taken collectively by all of the Latin American nations in order to effectively end the suffering of the Panamanian people and to end this irregular situation; there are no institutions but whims, the foreign minister asserted.

Regarding our country's concrete position, the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] What we want is a collective action. (?Therefore), we feel that no individual actions must be adopted. I think that Costa Rica, and you will have to understand this—as a bordering country and as a country with a number of democratic principles which have to be upheld always, because otherwise we would be betraying the will of the Costa Rican people—has to promote this collective action, but not undertake individual action.

I think that this time is quite propitious for an inter-American will to emerge with regard to Panama. [end recording]

Referring to the situation that has arisen or should arise in view of the invasion of our territory, the foreign minister said that the one who must make statements in this regard is Public Security Minister Hernan Garron.

El Salvador

President Cristiani on Peace Negotiations

PM1110101489 Rome LA REPUBLICA in Italian 30 Sep 89 p 18

[Interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by Alessandro Oppes in Rome—date not given]

[Excerpt] Rome—[Passage omitted] [Oppes] Mr President, for the first time there is optimism about the possibility that the peace negotiations will produce results. What preconditions will the government set for signing an agreement on 31 January 1990, as the guerrillas are demanding?
[Cristiani] I think that the armed groups have fixed a date for propaganda reasons. The situation is not easy, but we are moderately optimistic about the possibility of including the armed groups in the country's democratic process. I think that the speed with which the negotiations reach a positive solution will depend on the forthcoming San Jose meeting which will tackle the subject of the end of hostilities by the armed groups.

[Oppes] Are you prepared to allow the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] become a political party, as it is asking to do?
[Cristiani] Of course, the objective is that they should become a political party and accept the rules of the democratic game.

[Oppes] What role will the church, the United Nations, and the OAS have in the San Jose negotiations?
[Cristiani] The agreement reached in Mexico City last week stipulates that when the two parties consider it appropriate to invite the UN and OAS representatives, they can do so. We think that the international organizations can play an important role, especially for the future, in verifying the implementation of the agreements. The Catholic Church has acted as mediator in meetings in the past, and it now has an observer's role, watching to see that the negotiations take place under normal conditions. It is right that things should continue in this way, that the church should simply act as a witness to what is happening. We think that if the negotiating process is to be conducted in a responsible way, it should take place behind closed doors: When public statements are made, positions become inflexible. If negotiations take place behind closed doors it is easier for the parties to change their positions.

[Oppes] How do you explain the guerrillas' readiness to negotiate with a president who represents the country's political right wing after the collapse of all attempts by Jose Napoleon Duarte, his predecessor, who portrayed himself as a "man of dialogue?"
[Cristiani] There are various reasons. One is that the talks are not on an ideological level: They are negotiating

with a constitutional government, in the past with Duarte's government, and now with ours. Any peace agreement will have to be signed and implemented with the Republic's government. Second, I think that the general conditions have changed, not only inside El Salvador, but also outside. We see that there is a better climate throughout the world which favors the solution of these problems.

[Oppes] Have relations between the United States and El Salvador changed at all following Ronald Reagan's departure?

[Cristiani] The Washington administration still supports the democratization process in El Salvador. What I think has changed is Bush's style compared with that of Reagan: President Bush is trying to find an internal agreement on the main political themes with the Democratic Party, unlike his predecessor.

[Oppes] According to the Salvadoran human rights commission, in the first 3 months of your presidential term, 296 people were killed, 416 were illegally detained, and 48 disappeared. The UN human rights committee condemns the increase in violations.

[Cristiani] We regard the first figure as totally unfounded. Obviously, in a country in which a conflict is going on, people are killed or taken prisoner, but this does not necessarily mean that the government is violating human rights. Contrary to what the human rights commission states, our statistics show that the number of people killed has fallen. Moreover, this commission is very close to the FMLN and is acting within the strategy of the guerrilla group itself. The FMLN has mounted a campaign at international level with the intention of discrediting the government: The objective was that the Washington government should decide to block aid to El Salvador because one of the preconditions for granting aid is human rights observance. An illustration of the fact that the situation is different from that described by the human rights commission comes from the observation that the U.S. Administration has decided to increase military aid to El Salvador in recent years, and the Senate's agreement to this aid was much broader than that registered in previous votes.

[Oppes] You define yourself as a European-style neoliberal, but the Nationalist Republican Alliance, your party, has gained notoriety in recent years as an extreme right-wing party suspected of serious human rights violations.

[Cristiani] The rumors did not necessarily correspond to the reality of this political party. People are now discovering that many of the things which were said about us in the past were completely untrue. I think that the vast majority of party members are not extremists. Moreover, you must ask yourself how a party described as an extreme right-wing party could receive the kind of massive support which we have in the country. In general, extremist parties are very small groups: The people obviously do not regard us as extremists. [Passage omitted]

Cristiani on Murder of Editor's Wife, Dialogue

PA1110231689 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Several Salvadoran sectors have condemned the murder of the wife of the deputy editor of EL DIARIO DE HOY. She was riddled with bullets near the Central American University this morning. Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has described the action as terrorist. He said this is a flagrant violation of human rights, which will surely also be condemned by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Pastor Ribrejo, who is in the country.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The last straw is that terrorists, without any risk to themselves, kill defenseless women. This particular lady was accompanied by her children, one of whom was wounded. We think this is the limit. We are not sure who did it, but, considering the nature of the action, it appears to be a terrorist crime. We already know who perpetrates such actions. We think this is part of what the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has been doing. They have been silencing voices that uphold philosophies that run contrary to their's. [end recording]

Referring to the presence of Pastor Ribrejo in the country, Cristiani said the UN official will be able to confirm that the policy of the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces does not fit the violation of the human rights.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I will not refer to Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas alone, but to all of the organizations linked to the FMLN that have been trying to discredit the government. I think Dr Ribrejo will be able to confirm that neither the government nor the Armed Forces are in the habit of violating human rights. I think if one tries to be objective and realistic, he will realize that the FMLN has been trying to make the homeland fall into a state of total anarchy. I think the Armed Forces have acted very professionally. The government's policy has been to try to seek solutions through reason rather than violence. These events must be seen in the light of what the FMLN said it would do. It said it would unleash even greater violence. [end recording]

As for the upcoming dialogue meeting to be held in San Jose on 16 and 17 October, Cristiani said a commission is ready to resume talks with the FMLN, to which a cease-fire will be proposed, among other things. Cristiani said that the Costa Rican Government has reported working on the logistics of the meeting so the talks can be held in peace.

Commission To Aid Justice Administration Formed

PA1110180389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] A commission that will work for a better administration of justice has been created, with representatives

of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, the police, and the Ministry of Justice.

Police Director Carlos Mauricio Guzman said there have been some irregularities in the court procedure used for accused persons and the subsequent investigations. This commission is charged with correcting these errors.

The commission, which will determine the role that every judicial branch plays in the administration of justice, will be assisted by the U.S. Department of Justice through the VISITAR [expansion unknown] program.

Army Announces Changes in Police Command

PA1110225789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2121 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Oct (AFP)—Official sources reported today that National Police Director Colonel Carlos Guzman Aguilar, who has been accused by grass roots organizations of "permitting violations of human rights" was unexpectedly removed from his post.

According to an official report, Guzman Aguilar was appointed commander of the Army Staff National Intelligence Department.

Guzman Aguilar will be replaced by Colonel Ismael Machuca, based on the general order of changes, which also include other personnel movements in lower ranking positions, the Army's press office reported.

Col Guzman Aguilar has been constantly criticized by unions and opposition human right organizations, which have accused him of permitting "torture and mistreatment" of political prisoners.

The National Police is one of the three security corps, along with the Treasury Police and the National Guard. It is responsible for the antiriot police and the security battalion in the capital and various cities in the interior of the country.

Guatemala

Army-URNG Dialogue Not Possible at Present

PA1210023089 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 4 Oct 89 p 6

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Army said today that the dialogue that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] wishes to establish with all the political parties is not possible at this point.

It was said that the URNG has reported that it has made several requests to begin a dialogue that would lead the country to better paths, but that it has received only negative answers from President Cerezo and National Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo.

In that respect, the URNG says that in the rest of Central America there has been the goodwill necessary to establish positive dialogue to try to bring peace to the Central American isthmus, but that in Guatemala this has not been possible because the state's main powers refuse to promote such a dialogue.

The URNG also indicated that the so-called National Dialogue has been the target of threats, attacks, and boycotts. It considers these actions not to have contributed toward the search for solutions that could bring happiness to the people in general.

Colonel Isaacs Rodriguez, Chief of Public Relations of the Army, said that by calling the political parties and other sectors of Guatemalan society to dialogue, the URNG representatives merely want to do as much as they can to acquire a political image both nationally and internationally.

The Army spokesman added that if the URNG really wants peace in Guatemala its members should first turn in their weapons and devote themselves to tasks that would be productive for the country. Then, if they wanted, they could form a political party to struggle on equal terms with the rest of the citizens who belong to the other parties, with the objective of making definitive decisions through suffrage. In this manner they could choose the persons they consider most fit to direct the destiny of the more than 8 million Guatemalans.

Rodriguez added: If it is true that these people want to do something positive for peace in our country, they should accept the government's protection and lay down their weapons. We consider this very unlikely, he indicated.

These are not strict conditions, Rodriguez said, but a call for prudence, to try to get the URNG to cease the activities that over the years, instead of leaving something constructive or positive for the country, have worn everyone out and on many occasions have caused mourning among families.

In the end these situations lead nowhere, the spokesman said, not because the government does not wish to establish a dialogue with the URNG, but because it wants to do so under equal conditions. These conditions, he explained, are that everyone should be acting within a democratic system, without the pressure of arms; in a political framework from within which a new plan, a new direction could be drawn up for Guatemala.

Nicaragua

Interior Minister on Revolution, U.S., Peru

PY0610145089 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Oct 89, pp 10, 11 Sunday Supplement

[Report on an "exclusive interview" with Commander Tomas Borge by Luis Pflucker in Managua; date not given; all quotation markes as published]

[Text] [Pflucker] How much has Nicaragua changed since Somoza was ousted 10 years ago?
[Borge] A lot of water and blood have passed under the Latin American bridge since then. Most of the blood has been shed by the Nicaraguan people. The number of victims since the liberation war can hardly be calculated. More than 50,000 people have been killed. Tens of thousands have been maimed. I believe that Latin America has made an enormous sacrifice to fight the continent's dominant historical axle: U.S. imperialism.

Speaking in a soft, low voice Tomas Borge then expresses regret over the death of so many youths.

"There are also many orphans, disconsolate mothers. However, the saddest thing is that most of the victims of this war are young people, that our youth have been ravaged. This is the most dramatic aspect of our recent history, this mighty river of blood that has been shed in our suffering Nicaragua."

[Pflucker] How can you explain that, despite the economic crisis, destroyed industry, and rampant inflation—the highest inflation rate in Latin America—the Sandinist government continues to receive support form the people to a certain extent?
[Borge] All peoples have a great historical instinct. They can smell—this is the appropriate word—like mastiffs with a great sense of smell, their way to the destiny and objective they seek. Although this may seem rhetorical, the Nicaraguan people base their confidence on objective facts: The revolution recovered our national sovereignty. We are a free country for the first time. We are deciding our own future.

[Pflucker] But don't you think that social protest against the government could be brewing?
[Borge] I think that the economic blockade poses a serious, though not decisive, problem in the economic development of Nicaragua. Once peace is consolidated—and it has been consolidated to great extent—all our energy and efforts will be concentrated on work, and work is what produces food and material wealth."

After stating that the most important cadres are concentrated in the area of Nicaraguan defense and security, Borge said that the contras have already been defeated and are being disbanded.

"They are finished, their organizational capacity and their combat spirit, which is essential in an army, are low. The Esquipulas agreement and others have confirmed the end of the counterrevolution."

"War is the continuation of politics through other means; in the case of Nicaragua, politics have managed to change the relation of forces by disbanding the contras, which would have otherwise suffered a military defeat."

[Pflucker] How has the Nicaraguan Revolution influenced Latin America?
[Borge] The Cuban Revolution encouraged other armed guerrilla movements in Latin America to start their own revolutions. But in general their success was always uncertain, and the sacrifice of many young people on the continent did not yield positive results according to their ideals. The Nicaraguan Revolution was different in that the armed movement became a popular revolt. Everything seems to indicate that the same will happen in El Salvador. The correlation of forces here will lead to at least a short-term political solution.

[Pflucker] Some people say the call to elections is a show of weakness by your government.
[Borge] On the contrary, it is a show of strength. We were asked to move the election date forward and we obliged. We gave a favorable answer to Costa Rican President Arias' proposal as a contribution to the Central American peace process.

[Pflucker] Do you think Mrs Violeta Chamorro is a "poupet" of imperialism?
[Borge] Mrs Violeta Chamorro was married to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, but she has no political experience. Her short participation in politics as a member of the government junta did not give her enough political capital. I think Violeta Chamorro has become an instrument of the right and of U.S. policy in Nicaragua, whether she likes it or not.

Referring to drug trafficking, Borge said his country has always being among the first to condemn it, and to urge other countries to fight it. Borge recalled that Reagan once tried to accuse Nicaragua of drug trafficking but that the charges were shelved after the U.S. narcotics office denied them. We do not have that problem here, we do not have drug consumption, and least of all drug trafficking, Borge said.

"We think that drug trafficking is a problem of all human beings. Our own revolutionary and moral priciples demand that we support all efforts to fight drug trafficking whenever these efforts do not affect the sovereignty of our nations."

[Pflucker] Why do you support Panama despite the U.S. Government accusation that it is involved in drug trafficking?
[Borge] Reagan also said that we were drug traffickers. I do not take U.S. Government accusations seriously. The charges against Panama have not been proven so far. We maintain friendly relations with its government, and we think that everything the United States has said against the Panamanian Government is slander.

[Pflucker] Apart from your opinion, Latin America as a whole is withdrawing its support from Panama.
[Borge] We respect the opinions of the other Latin American governments. I think they are wrong. Panama has problems involving its sovereignty, not drug trafficking. The United States wants to denounce the canal treaty and occupy the country politically and militarily. We cannot accept that.

[Pflucker] What is your opinion of Mario Vargas Llosa as a politician?

[Borge] My political and ideological concepts are different. However, as a writer Mario Vargas Llosa is one of the greatest figures in world literature. I have said that Vargas Llosa is the Honor de Balzac of modern Spanish literature. I have read all his books, and I have the impression that he is wrong in many respects. He has faith in his convictions, but as I said in my book "The Patient Impatience" [La Paciente Impaciente] that I sent him as a present, "my admiration for him will resist all antagonistic contradictions."

Regarding Vargas Llosa's shifting political positions, which are sometimes antagonistic, Borge said: "Mario's essence has always been the same. When he visited us I told him that he had a bright star on his forehead and a bit of night in his conscience. But with this I did not mean to say that he was evil, but a man blinded by his ideological conceptions."

[Pflucker] What is your opinion of President Alan Garcia?

[Borge] He is a great friend of Nicaragua. He has always supported us, and we owe him a lot of gratitude. We are friends. I have great respect for him, I admire him. He is very intelligent. He has serious political views on the historic development of his country.

[Pflucker] What is your opinion of the Peruvian left?

[Borge] Whenever I meet with leaders from the Peruvian left I tell them that without unity, without an agreement on their not-so-important differences, it will be impossible to think about the possibility of ever reaching power.

[Pflucker] What message would you send to the people of Latin America, and particularly of Peru?

[Borge] Well, I think that Latin America has to keep its eyes open so as not to be deceived by the tendentious, malicious, mean propaganda disseminated by our enemies... to detect the essence of democracy as we see it in Nicaragua... and to realize that there will be revolution in Nicaragua for some time to come.

[Pflucker] You have accepted the presence of foreign representatives to oversee [vigilar] the elections.

[Borge] I believe the word oversee is not the proper word. The proper word is observe [observar]... We want witnesses, not overseers.

[Pflucker] Will doors be open to observers?

[Borge] Doors will be completely open...completely open.

[Pflucker] Thank you, very much, Commander...until next time.

[Borge] Embrace all Peruvians for me, especially Alfonso Barrantes.

Panama

Reportage on Speeches, Events at National Assembly

Noriega Gives Speech

PA1110211489 Panama City Radio and Television Services Network in Spanish 1956 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, to the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives at the Balboa Theater in Balboa, Panama City—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, the provisional president of the Republic, Eng Francisco Rodriguez; Your Excellency, the vice president of the Republic, Dr Ozores; distinguished and honorable magistrate, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Mr Attorney General of the administration and the nation; administrative authorities; Messrs ministers; comrades of the people's government:

Before beginning this presentation, I would like to present to you a visiting friend who represents the true U.S. people, purity instead of hatred. [applause] She is Sara York. [prolonged applause]

Sara York has come...[changes thought] Being aware of the situation, she has come to bring a message of peace and friendship to our people. Before leaving her homeland, she also made statements favorable to this country that she knew—a peaceful country. She has written to the leaders of her country, telling them what she experienced and what she saw, without pressure of any kind, and asking for an end to the harassment of the Republic of Panama.

Comrades, today has become a true ceremony of remembrance, of tribute to our leader and teacher, Omar Torrijos Herrera. [applause] True Torrijism implies not just using Torrijos' words, or just saying Torrijism. It must be acted on. That is Torrijism, gentlemen. Many injustices have been committed in Torrijos' name, and many people have been confused, but this is Torrijism. [applause]

The resumption of a people's government is what Torrijos wanted, and that is Torrijism. You are Torrijism. This is the true doctrine. This is the true doctrine [repeats himself], and we have to unmask those who attempt to deceive with words and misdeeds using Torrijos' names. But this is Torrijism, and you are Torrijist. [applause]

This is the embodiment of Panama's geography. It is seated here in the 511 [as heard] representatives [prolonged applause]. This true geography is the exact expression of each cell of the organism of the fatherland. It represents the characteristics of the forgotten places in Bocas del Toro and Darien. It also represents the idiosyncracy of the peoples of the coast in Colon [applause]. It also represents the vigor and the creativity of Chiriqui [applause], and it also represents the natural strength,

both folkloric and real of the central provinces of the Azuero Peninsula. [applause]. It represents the authenticity and fighting spirit of Veraguas [applause]. It includes the primary and legendary culture of our Indians of Kuna Yala [applause]. It is the expression of the vivacity of Panamanians from the capital, from the city. [applause] Indeed, added one by one, it is the total picture of a nation, a nation as it really is.

This is true democracy. This is a true democracy, in which each man represents his corregimiento and in which each man is judged by his own neighbors, who live in the same corregimiento with him.

There can be no more representative or realistic expression than you, as men of the government of the area where you live and work. You are the ones who sleep with the people, and who wake up with them. It is your doors on which people knock when there is a communal need. You are the ones who know all the inhabitants by name, and you are the ones to whom they complain. You are the ones who are applauded, but who are also criticized for the things that should have been done and were not done. [applause]

In other words, we would like other countries in the world to stop criticizing us and to familiarize themselves with this experiment, which is the expression of the true democracy of a people, in line with their limitations and their geographical position.

This date, by virtue of historical coincidence, has something unusual. On the night of 10 October and the early morning of 11 October in 1925, the Tenant Movement [Movimiento Inquilinario] began in Santa Ana Park, and it was there, on that fatal day, that the United States intervened to suppress those who were fighting against homeowners for a reduction in the cost of housing. It was also on that day that bayonets ran through the bodies of the men who have been remembered in history as the Tenant League.

Thus, we see that from 1925 to now—74 years—our people have known how to fight against foreigners. Our people have dignity. Our dignity is not recent, nor is it of just one man, nor is it exclusively ours. It is a reincarnation of dignity, because our people were born in subjugation, but they will not die that way. [applause]

Therefore, the struggle is not because someone's name is Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Perez, Saavedra, Perinan, Gomez, or Noriega. The struggle is because they want the Republic of Panama's geographic space to attack other countries and have total control over Latin America's geopolitics. [applause]

We believe that today's event is President Rodriguez' provisional government's fastest way to progress; it is showing our people that we want to progress and are going to progress. We are going to progress positively.

There are many people who are afraid or are trying to confuse the people regarding the war laws that you, the people in general, had been requesting for a long time. Why are they afraid? The war laws do not include executions or seizure of property. These are control laws that are necessary during times of emergency. This is true. Panama is being subjected to a war, a psychological war, a real war, an economic war, a diplomatic war. Do they want us to change the label of war? Then let them change their tactics, in a way that they no longer represent war.

We said that the laws presented consider most of the people's needs. These are not laws to subjugate anyone, these are laws that protect the weakest, that protect those who have less, that protect those who have been subjugated since 1904 and who have always asked for these laws, and those who have always asked for rectification. These are the rectifications. [applause]

The formation of this people's power is very important because all will go down and all will go up with the same intensity and distance [intensidad y distancia]. With the same intensity and distance, the executive branch will hear, through you, the plans, needs, and solutions to things that, because they are so complex, the president of the Republic cannot deal with them all. Therefore, your cooperation is basic and essential. Your cooperation is also urgent and it is also war cooperation. It is a war against hunger, misery, disease, and illiteracy to which they wish to subject us and we are not willing to accept. [applause]

There are some people inside those institutions who do not work for the people and who are not interested in the people. They criticize this type of event, this type of man, and this type of mission. There are many also who try to criticize the language we use when we speak. Gentlemen, what is there to criticize? What other language can we use when this is the kind of situation we face? This is the patient, this is his disease. What do they want us to do? Call a case of tuberculosis a little cold? No gentlemen, it is tuberculosis. [applause] The problem is that every time the people organize, they begin to tremble. [applause]

This type of organization frightens the old roots of the oligarchy, which refuse to disappear. This type of organization frightens those who wish to continue taking advantage of projects, sabotaging government enterprises, and confusing ministers so they can preserve their fabulous contracts, but forgetting about the people who get nothing. [applause]

They also tried to confuse our comrades at the labor unions and the people's organizations. The laws are not against the labor unions and the laws are not against our comrades from the people's organizations. The laws reinforce the leaders of the labor unions, of the people's organizations, and the true leaders of the people. The true leaders and the labor unions are not afraid of what their comrades will do for them. They know that this government and these men will never betray the labor union movement. [applause]

The psychological war continues in trying to confuse our own forces. That is why I say: alert, alert. This alert should be shouted from the liberated territory of Panama to the last corners of the entire isthmus. [applause]

We believe that more laws will be passed. It is not necessary for a single party to submit laws. I saw Marcos Fenton [leader of radical groups on canal issues] submitting 20 laws.

Any party may submit laws. Labor union organizations can submit laws. They can submit laws. This is their contribution. No party and no man knows everything, therefore, we are sure the president is willing to receive the laws submitted by all. They will be reviewed.

Therefore, the first order is: Beware of traitors! Beware of those who try to confuse people!

We could keep on talking, but today's first session has been magnificent. It has been a session of total identification with the struggle for liberation, which includes liberation against hunger, disease, and illiteracy. Therefore your laws and the work in your communities will be laws of moral, mental, and material liberation.

I conclude by saying and repeating that many men are engaged in this struggle for liberation. We are 2,221,000 Panamanians. The people in this struggle do not exclusively come from one party or from one group. It is the struggle of all Panamanians.

Being 1 of 2.221 million Panamanians, I want to tell you that we must be prepared because we cannot be caught by surprise again, and even if the commander falls, the people must never fall. [applause]

Companeros of the people's power: There is and there must be preparation in the combative groups, in the liberation groups, in the people's movements. There must be preparation and prevention. Therefore, if a companero falls, this does not mean a movement comes to a halt. If a companero falls, the people must take to the streets and seize all defense installations so that the government will not fall, so that our achievements will not be lost. [applause, chants of "not one step backward"] Companeros of people's power: From the negative experiences, tears, sighs, anxieties, and setbacks, we must obtain positive conclusions, and initiate positive defense programs, and actions in order to advance and defend ourselves. The recent events did not just entail the loss of the commander. They entailed the takeover of the executive power in order to install there the enemies of the Panamanian people subdued to treason and to the belligerant and aggressive foreign organizations. [applause, cheers] That is why they were preparing themselves and suspended their quote, fast, unquote. [laughter]

Therefore, I repeat, the watchword is to advance and not step back, and on the blood shed by our comrades we will carry the flag up high, and keep power in the hands of the people, never in the hands of our enemies. [applause, chants]

Rodriguez Gives Address

PA1110231289 Panama City Radio and Television Services Network in Spanish 2026 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez to the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives at the Balboa Theater in Balboa, Panama City—live]

[Text] Honorable Mrs Marisol Reyes de Vazquez, magistrate president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Your Excellency Dr Carlos Ozores Typaldos, provisional vice president of the Republic; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; Ministers and Vice Ministers of state; Mr Deputy Comptroller General of the Republic; Mssrs Magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice; Mssrs Attorney Generals of the nation and the administration; Mr Fermin Herrera, chairman of the discussion; Mssrs Directors of decentralized organizations; Mssrs members of the FDP General Staff; Your Excellency Manuel Solis Palma, former president of the Republic; Madame Governor; Mssrs Governors; Mesdames Mayors; Mssrs Mayors; Mr Intendant; Honorable Corregimiento Representatives; Mssrs Councilmen; Ms Sara York, special guest [applause]; ladies and gentlemen:

The consequences of the unjust aggression by the United States against our country and the internal campaigns sponsored and promoted by that aggression give special characteristics to this 21st anniversary of the heroic feat of 11 October. The most recent events dramatize the significance of this date even more, because today the patriotic and moral values of 11 October 1968 become more important and more relevant. So do the values of loyalty and courage of 16 December 1969.

As you all know, the Panamanian nationalist struggle was subjected, on 3 October, to a new test. Once again, our cause has been the target of an attack on the stability of our institutions and the country's political leadership.

Last week in New York, on being accosted by newsmen, we said that we have proof of the open participation by the United States in the attempt by officers who, in trying to disrupt the structure of the FDP, struck a blow at the country's dignity. It is no longer necessary to show the world that irrefutable evidence. The U.S. administration itself has admitted its intervention in this shady affair. The U.S. itself has acknowledged that in its campaign against our country, it will not hesitate to continue promoting discord among Panamanians, even if this means having us confront each other. Efforts by some reactionary sectors to get the U.S. Congress to give the U.S. President special powers to intervene militarily in Panama and to act directly against the FDP commander, dramatically underscore the dimensions of a struggle that increasingly jeopardizes the very existence of the Panamanian nation. That is why, in my speech last week to the UN General Assembly, I invited that international organization to closely observe the provisional government's efforts to promptly lead the country

toward a participative democracy that is genuinely Panamanian. We warned of the dangers resulting from the obstinacy of those who oppose our people's sovereign decisions in this regard.

As I noted upon my return to the country, we did not go to ask for anything. We went to demand the respect that is due to us as a free people in the community of nations, and all the more so because we are not anyone's enemy, nor do we make attempts on anyone's life or on anyone's interests. We demand to be allowed to decide, based on our will, whether patterns and systems not adjusting to our characteristics or national soul should be imposed on us. We did this convinced that only when dignity prevails can we consolidate the democracy we Panamanians want and deserve.

The preservation of the nationalist cause over last week's attack, makes Torrijists proud, and justifiably so. However, we must not draw overconfident conclusions from that because our fatherland is facing at home and abroad a very powerful and merciless adversary who seeks major strategic objectives at the cost of destroying Panama's sovereignty and independence. We cannot be deceived, as the enemies of our nation would want. We must quickly achieve higher levels of preparation to resist in a patriotic manner and to face this and other forms of internal and external aggression that we may still have to overcome in the future to guarantee our people their legitimate government to provide themselves their own forms of development and democracy.

Hence the historic importance of celebrating this 11 October with the representatives and mayors of all of the country's communities, as we begin a new phase in the development of the people's government. Deliberative and participative communities and the organized mass and productive sectors must in fact become the backbone of resistance and national liberation of all Panamanians. This 11 October must truly be a starting point, not a mere formal ceremony to celebrate a past event, but the historic moment to acquire a pledge regarding Panama's present and future. [applause].

We must realize that we have to undertake this new nationalist calling under better, yet more difficult conditions than the ones in 1968. The conditions are better because our fatherland has grown in independence and material development, thanks to the great work done during the previous Torrijist phase. The conditions are more difficult now due to the impact of the international economic crisis that has been destroying Latin America, and due to the arrogance and irrational aggressiveness of Washington's current policy, which has caused so much damage and placed limitations on the Panamanian economy and social condition. We have a shortage of material resources and money; but we have plenty of courage and creative imagination, as well as great faith in the fatherland and in the country's fundamental resource, namely, the Panamanian people. [applause] We must instill in the people a greater faith in themselves and their national government in order to unleash their huge creative potential. We must do that with the people's government, the active participation of communities, and organized social sectors.

The renewal of the Republic now has an instrument that must and shall be wisely used, namely, the structure of the people's government, which you comprise. Regarding this, today we received a request from the honorable representatives to establish the People's Government Consultative Assembly, as well as other draft bills. We will carefully and seriously analyze these iniatives based on the country's best interests. [applause]

People's power means government of the people. For this concept to fit the situation, you are called on to become elements of change. The local governments and the corregimiento representatives must not only act as spokespersons to make the central government aware of problems, but also as a vehicle for practical and specific solutions in their respective communities. [applause] These people's power local and regional organizations must work with a clear vision of what they need and what they can do. Their members must then display a vigorous creativity that will leave behind, forever, the image of the complainer and the one who wants everything to be solved by higher authorities. [applause] You will be the ones who will make it possible for Panama to eradicate the phenomenon of paternalism that restricts and limits the possibilities of self-actions and shared efforts in all the communities of the country. In other words, you must earn your rank of leader among the people you represent. [applause]

Likewise, overcoming the disregard and underestimation which was evident in the past, the various levels of the administration will offer the various organizations of the people's power ample and decided cooperation. Only by doing this will we be able to consolidate a government solidly secured in the core of Panamanian society.

Since the day the provisional government was installed, I have insisted on the need for the country's political leadership to assume, as a priority, the correction of mistakes made during the past few years and which separated us from the original idea of the 1968 revolution. Our process of transformation, inspired and carried out under the leadership of Commander Torrijos,[5] has been shaken on several occasions by destabilizing attempts. We have been able to overcome these situations because of the militancy of the rank and file that follow the idea of integral liberation proposed by Torrijism. That rank and file has patiently waited for us to correct those mistakes. This is why we cannot irresponsibly overlook this new opportunity we have been given to correct the path of our process. [applause]

We must always remember that Gen Torrijos' legacy is, by nature, against all types of sectarianism. Likewise, our patriotic, nationalist, and progressive forces, must understand that national reconciliation will not be achieved without a sincere determination to accept and include all Panamanians who are concerned about the

future of the nation. We cannot take the chance of ignoring those who can help in the struggle for the future of all the children of our homeland. In this sense, the provisional government reiterates its commitment to remain willing to talk and reach agreements, based on acceptance of our sovereignty and political independence, that will contribute to the consolidation of a peaceful and productive coexistence among Panamanians. [applause] The path toward the new Republic cannot be marked by revenge. Preservation of the homeland, our home, and our will, will continue to be a priority for our government, because we are aware that hate and rancor has never been harbored, nor can be harbored in our hearts. In any case, the generosity that encourages us, based on reason and the strength of our cause, cannot be interpreted as a sign of weakness, nor must it be viewed as a lack of integrity, consistency, or determination in our beliefs.

Let us recall at all times that Gen Torrijos never excluded anyone. Only those who so desire it, are excluded. However, as a political platform toward the future, Torrijoism never closes its doors on anyone who displays his unconditional love for the fatherland as a banner. [applause] Let us bear in mind that the country continues under the pressure of economic and political aggression, of the foreign military threat, and the internal sabotage and conspiracy. There is an immediate and huge danger, and we must confront it with energy. The days of cronyism are gone, as are the days of tolerating errors, sedition, and demands. [applause]

The freeloaders, seditious individuals, and foreign attackers are enemies in our struggle for the sake of the Republic. [applause] Such a situation demands we have a patriotic government, capable of working endlessly, willing to make sacrifices, and not a bureaucratic mass that is inefficient and cannot solve the national problems. In order to lead all the other transformations that the fatherland demands, the first thing we have to do is to make the government itself more dynamic. This calls for reorganizing the public public sector and giving it a firm foundation. [applause and cheers]

We want to establish an administrative career law that will guarantee the people a patriotic and efficient administration and guarantee stability to good officials, but deny impunity to those who plot against the fatherland and to enemy agents [applause] who have infiltrated various government organizations and to the freeloaders, concealers, sinecures, and idlers who have also infiltrated the government. [applause]

At any rate, if at the end it is proven that any injustice or arbitrary action has occurred, the respective minister or director will be responsible for such action, and we will proceed to correct the situation. [applause]

This is not an end, but an instrument for a purpose that we are interested in achieving. It is also the purpose that must guide us, that must guarantee both the security and defense of the country as well as the quality and efficiency of the services that the public sector must provide the citizens and taxpayers.

Now, within the framework of the hemispheric economic crisis and the harsh effects of the coercive measures that have been unjustly imposed on our country, we are undertaking a national project that goes beyond resisting aggression, and it calls for proposing new goals.

In recent days, we have adopted several decree-laws that seek to rectify and courageously confront the current situation. To that effect, it is necessary to make fiscal adjustments that will allow the state to assure the workers the right to have a sure source of income in order to handle the basic needs of their families, such as food, housing, education for the children, and basic medication. The state must also train the workers so they can meet other needs of our people while preserving the current infrastructure that runs the risk of deteriorating. The state must also invest in the communities that have been set aside for lack of resources.

Thus, faced with the option of drastically reducing the state's payroll, we have chosen to postpone—temporarily—the payment of such things as bonuses, permanent per diems, 13th month bonuses, and salary adjustments because of promotions and step increases. We recognize these gains and shall honor them as soon as the country's economic conditions make it possible. In sum, faced with the alternative of mass dismissals of officials, the provisional government has adopted the announced measures and will continue to adopt other measures that the country requires. These sets of laws also contain the necessary provisions to correct a lot of setbacks, to solve pending problems, and to correct injustices and weaknesses that were undermining the government's efforts.

Some of the laws such as the urgent economic and financial measures will permit the issuance of—in the short term—guidelines for the interest and benefit of the people. To complement this, we will analyze another set of measures directly aimed at solving problems and injustices that most of our people are suffering. These measures will include critical issues such as a reduction in the price of medicines [applause], a better and greater protection of consumers including the necessary measures to ensure the basic basket products, more accessible education for the children of the common people, greater tax justice, and a set of measures to promote the creation of jobs. All these laws do not violate the current legal order of the country at all.

These laws reconcile policies drafted to promote a broad participation of all sectors in the strategies seeking to attain a quick economic reactivation, with emphasis on those sectors more affected by the foreign aggression. These laws ensure respect of private property and to free enterprise as fundamental factors of our traditional economic system which despite its faults, continues being the most advisable for our social development. In

the same manner, and as we have repeatedly pointed out, the parameters required for the normal development of the banking system and related activities of our international financial center have been protected. The country continues offering international investors the conditions and facilities that have made and make Panama an attractive place to invest foreign capital. This way, based on an stable monetary currency, the security and recovery of foreign investments, and the invesment of funds remain protected by an institutional, legal, and administrative framework suitable for regional and inter-continental trade.

Contrary to what happens in other countries, where people are overwhelmed by concessions to foreign creditors, this provisional government is hereby presenting to the country a set of legislative measures to defend the national sovereignty and to answer the people's demands [applause].

Messrs members of the People's Power: The difficulties are overwhelming and the dangers are huge. However, the provisional government, the people's power, and the FDP are nationalistic and revolutionary and are here not to complain but to fight. We are here to promote the necessary changes and to open new routes of development and collective progress for the country. We are here to gather, organize, and mobilize the people as the fundamental resource and force in the country. We are not here to work for the people, but to work together with the people. We are here to fight and to achieve new goals of sovereignty and national liberation, and new social and productive goals. Because of all the preceding, I think it is timely and mandatory to salute this 11th October as the beginning of a stage that seeks to attain the overall and definitive liberation of the fatherland, to see the fatherland firmly moving forward toward the 21st century. This is undoubtedly the best tribute we could ever pay to Omar Torrijos Herrera, to our government, and to the fatherland. Thank you very much. [applause]

Noriega Named 'Leader'

PA1110175889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives today proclaimed itself "Parliament of the People's Government" [Parlamento del Poder Popular] and named General Manuel Antonio Noriega "leader [conductor] of the national liberation process."

The 510 representatives, who were appointed by the Council of State when the elected Legislative Assembly was dissolved on 1 September, also named Noriega "coordinator general of plans and programs of the Parliament of the People's Government."

The Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives met for the first time today, on the 21st anniversary of the 1968 military coup that gave birth to the current regime.

Panamanian President Francisco Rodriguez and Gen Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, who managed to thwart a military attempt to overthrow him on 3 October, are expected to attend the Assembly session this afternoon.

More on Appointment

PA1110182489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1745 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives named General Manuel Antonio Noriega "leader of the national liberation process" today after announcing the establishment of a "new republic" and proclaiming itself "Parliament of the People's Government."

The representatives also named Noriega, who has been commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces and the country's "strongman" since 1983, as "coordinator general of plans and programs" of their "parliament."

The Assembly of Representatives, which Noriega has described on several occasions as the "people's parliament," met today for the first time, on the 21st anniversary of the 1968 military coup that gave birth to the current regime, and 1 day after the government approved a package of "wartime laws" to face up to U.S. "aggression."

"The 510," as they are called colloquially, were appointed by the State Council following the dissolution of the previous Legislative Assembly—which is established by direct elections—and the installment of a "provisional government" that has been presided over by Francisco Rodriguez since 1 September.

The State Council, of which Noriega is a member, announced on that occasion that a 41-member "legislation commission" would be created. Its members have not yet been appointed.

President Rodriguez and Gen Noriega, who managed to thwart a bloody military attempt to unseat him on 3 October, will attend the closing session of the Assembly today.

One of the representatives, Gustavo Torreglosa, explained to ACAN-EFE that the appointment of the general as "leader of the process" and "coordinator general" of the new parliament is designed to "strengthen the relationship between the people's government and the patriotic leader, Manuel Antonio Noriega." He added that the intent is to "strengthen the marriage between the people and the Defense Forces."

"This people's parliament must be the basis for future legislation. The Legislation Commission must come from the 510," Torreglosa said.

In contrast, governmental adviser Romulo Escobar Bethancourt told ACAN-EFE that the institutional role

of the Assembly of Representatives "has not yet been defined," nor has the future of the 41-member Legislation Commission.

Escobar, who was the government's representative in the dialogue with the opposition sponsored by the OAS in June and August, added that it will be necessary to amend the Constitution to convert "the 510" into a parliament with legislative powers.

According to Escobar, the appointment of Noriega as "leader of the process" is different from the appointment of General Omar Torrijos as head of government by a similar assembly of 505 representatives at the onset of the present regime.

That Assembly, which was also named the "people's government," amended the Constitution, including the name of Torrijos in it as "top leader of the revolution," and granted him broad executive, administrative, and legislative functions.

The theater where the Assembly of Representatives is meeting is guarded by a large number of heavily armed soldiers, some in uniform, and others in plainclothes. Meanwhile, U.S. military vehicles with troops belonging to the Pentagon's Southern Command, who are stationed on the banks of the canal, are constantly passing through the streets.

Resolution Confirms Noriega

PA1110212389 Panama City Radio and Television Service in Spanish 1940 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Resolution issued by the Consultative Council [Consejo Consultivo] of the People's Government Assembly recognizing General Manuel Antonio Noriega as leader of the revolutionary process; read by People's Government Assembly President Fermin Herrera—live]

[Text] The honorable representatives of the [words indistinct], exercising their legal powers and considering:

[No number as heard] That the corregimientos are the basic cells upon which the foundations of the Republic's structures are based because of their communal and democratic personal experience.

2. The nation is experiencing times of historic significance because of the constant threat of a military attack by Yankee imperialism and because it is the target of a cruel economic, financial, and political aggression orchestrated by the U.S. Government and supported by its internal allies, represented by the sellout oligarchy.

3. Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega has bravely and patriotically assumed the defense of our nation through worthy and exemplary conduct.

4. The honorable corregimiento representatives place their full trust in Gen Noriega to lead the revolutionary process.

It is resolved:

1. To proclaim Gen Noriega as leader of the national liberation process. [applause, shouts]

2. To declare Gen Noriega general coordinator of the plans and programs of the People's Power. [applause]

3. To deliver a copy of this resolution to Commander Noriega from a delegation representing all provinces and the San Blas Indian territory and to deliver a copy of this resolution to the news media.

Issued in Panama City on 11 October 1989.

Signed by each provincial spokesman.

Consultative Assembly Resolution

PA1110224189 Panama City Radio and Television Services in Spanish 1934 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Resolution on the formation of a Consultative Assembly by the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives read at the Balboa Theater in Panama City by Chiriqui Province Corregimiento Representative Leidis de Batista—live]

[Text] Good afternoon his Excellency Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez [applause];
General Manuel Antonio Noriega, defense forces [FDP] commander in chief [applause];
Vice President Dr Carlos Ozores [applause];
Supreme Court President Marisol Reyes de Vasquez [applause];
Distinguished directors of autonomous institutions [applause];
Former President Manuel Solis Palma [applause];
Guests, dear corregimiento representatives, colleagues.

Today, the people's power respectfully bows before the majesty of a Latin American giant who has lead with special courage and patriotism our people's liberation struggle. I am referring to the Commander of Dignity Manuel Antonio Noriega [applause]. I am also referring to President Francisco Rodriguez, whom historical destiny has put in these circumstances as the highest aide to Gen Noriega in this liberation struggle [applause], to the government team, and to the people whom, together with Gen Noriega and President Rodriguez have taken hold of the banner of liberation.

We hereby request you to allow us to read this resolution.

We, the Corregimiento Representatives, meeting on our own initiative, consider that:

The Corregimiento Representatives and councilmen were appointed through the general State Council agreement throughout the national territory.

For the best operation of the 510 Corregimiento Representatives it is necessary to form a consultative body for the people's power in order to complete the national liberation struggle which Panamanians support.

We resolve:

To request the Executive Branch to submit for consideration to the General State Council the proposal to establish the consultative assembly of the people's power as an organ of the people's government.

Issued on 9 October, 1989 in David, Chiriqui Province. Signed by spokesmen from the nine provinces and by the San Blas spokesman:
Bocas del Toro representative Ramon Palacios; Darien, Yolanda de Hernandez; Los Santos, Fermin Herrera; Herrera, Ramon Saavedra Gonzalez; Veraguas, Jose Rodriguez; Colon, Martin Ceballos; Panama, Victoria de Robolt; San Blas Intendance, Urbano Gonzalez; Cocle, Victor Rodriguez; Chiriqui, Leidis de Bastista.

Thank you very much.

Assembly Submits Bills

PA1110224889 Panama City Radio and Television Services Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Letter to Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez from People's Government Consultative Assembly; read by People's Government Assembly Secretary Victoria de Roberts at the Balboa Theater in Panama City—live]

[Text] Panama, 11 October 1989.
His Excellency Eng Francisco Rodriguez
Provisional President of the Republic of Panama

His Excellency Mr President:

The People's Government Consultative Assembly [Asamblea Consultiva del Poder Popular], exercising its legal powers, respectfully delivers to you for consideration by the Cabinet Council the bills to organize agrarian justice, to regulate the system of community and local boards, and to enact other measures.

We hope this legislative initiative will accomplish its objective and remain, within our highest expressions of consideration and respect,

Very truly yours,
[Signed] Fermin Herrera, president of the People's Government Consultative Assembly.
Victoria de Roberts, secretary of the People's Government Consultative Assembly.

Government Designates Kam New Foreign Minister

PA1110135289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Panamanian Government has designated diplomat Leonardo Kam as its new foreign minister, outgoing Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has announced. Meanwhile, economist Abelardo Carles has been designated deputy foreign minister.

Kam, 47, had been Panama's ambassador to the United Nations since March 1988, while Carles has been president of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries for the past 2 years.

OAS Protection for Arias Calderon Sought

PA1110181389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0437 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Caracas, 10 Oct (AFP)—The Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) today asked the OAS to intercede to safeguard the life of Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] of Panama, who has gone underground.

The ODCA office in Caracas has told AFP that ODCA Secretary General Hilarion Cardozo, a Venezuelan, asked for OAS intervention in an urgent telegram sent to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

"We have received information from Panama and also an urgent request that we have recourse to hemispheric organizations to seek international protection to safeguard the life of the PDC president...who has gone underground after being released by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]," the telegram says.

After stating that Arias Calderon was released "as a result of international pressure," Cardozo emphasized that "the FDP answers to General (Manuel Antonio) Noriega."

The ODCA telegram warns of "the lack of respect for human life now being experienced by the Panamanian people, most particularly the leaders of the opposition."

Poll Predicts Further Economic Deterioration

PA1210005689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Sep 89 pp 1, B-2

[Article by Juan Carlos Duque]

[Text] A poll by the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture of the main business, industry, and service enterprises has revealed that economic activity for the first half of 1989 was similar to that registered during the first half of 1988, but that the trend registered during the second quarter of 1989 "shows a slight deterioration in sales and income, as well as in salaries paid." The poll explains that businessmen expect further deterioration in the third quarter, a "larger" drop than the drop during the second quarter of the year when compared to the first quarter.

Of the enterprises polled, 12 percent are industries, 34.1 percent are service-oriented companies, and 53.8 percent are businesses, which "reflects the current makeup of the Chamber of Commerce."

According to the Chamber of Commerce poll, "50 percent of the enterprises reported losses during the first half of 1989 and the circumstances mentioned earlier seem to indicate that there is less and less room for adjustments to keep the enterprises afloat."

The Chamber of Commerce does not hide its concern over the country's sociopolitical problems and warns that the end of the third quarter grows near "without any

clearing up of the political panorama, and without a glimmer of a possible solution to the country's problems in the near future."

The Chamber of Commerce points out that there is an "isolation of our economy," and that these conditions will lead to "more enterprises closing down in the months to come."

The enterprises polled represented assets of more than $2.5 billion.

The poll showed that activity during the first half of 1989 has remained at the same level registered during the same period of 1988.

The poll also shows that government revenue during the first half of 1989 remained at the same level registered during the same period of 1988, which was 43.8 percent lower than what was collected for taxes in 1987.

In food, transportation, automotive sales, distribution, and agriculture there was a significant recovery in the first half of 1989, but there was a large drop in medicines, chemical products, communications media, electronics, furniture, finances, banking, and insurance. The poll showed that the drops fluctuated between 10 and 30 percent.

During the second quarter of 1989, while groups representing clothing, distribution, media communications, and electronics increased their sales, compared to the same period in 1988, there were drops in sales in the construction industry and in professional and other services, as well as in tourism, transportation, automotive sales, medicines, chemical products, furniture, finances, banking, and insurance.

The poll highlights a large drop in furniture sales, which was larger than expected.

Hardest hit are the small businesses and craft shops that are experiencing a lack of credit.

What can the country expect in the third quarter?

According to the poll, an additional drop of 4.4 percent. However, some groups expect "small increases."

There was little change in employment during the first half of 1989. However, the poll showed that by the month of September there could be a decrease of 1.6 percent in employment. In addition, it is estimated that 2.4 percent fewer jobs will become available in the month of September 1989 as compared to 1988.

The businesses polled have 16.2 percent less employment in 1988 than during the same period in 1987.

The poll showed that 87.7 percent of the businesses polled did not have any special working arrangements with their workers, while 18.8 percent did. [Of the latter] a total of 71.1 percent of their personnel are working reduced hours, 7.3 percent have accepted a reduction in salary, 10.5 percent are on leave without pay, and 2.6 percent are working alternate days.

Editorials Review Events Surrounding Insurrection

PA1210005789

[Editorial Report] Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish on 9 October carries two commentaries dealing with current events.

Carlos J Nunez authors a 250-word report on pages 1 and 18 entitled: "Attorney General Will Demand Jail Terms for Southern Command Members." The report states: "The State Attorney's Office has all the moral and legal right to demand jail terms for those from the Southern Command who promoted subversion against legally established institutions in Panama."

The report adds: "Jurists explained to the MATUTINO that nowhere under the Torrijos-Carter treaties is the so-called Southern Command authorized to intervene in Panama's domestic affairs."

The report concludes by warning of the possibility of taking the case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

In a 250-word commentary in the "Let the People Judge" column, columnist Ricardo Lince states that "The wolf's ears are beginning to stick out in the aftermath of the uprising. Cisneros admits that he had talked weeks before with Giroldi and Licona. Maisto intervened and then sent Arias Calderon and Ford abroad, holding on to Endara to prop him up in the Presidency. The agreement was that the revolt leaders were to place Noriega on the rooftop of the main garrison headquarters, and they [U.S. forces] would take him away in a helicopter. The [U.S.] Army promised, as in 1903, to stop the arrival of troops to the capital."

Lince then makes a historical comparison with other 1903 events that led to Panama's independence. The columnist mentions Bush's appearance before the U.S. Senate to answer questions fired at him by Senator Edward Kennedy, ending by stating "while Dukakis opened fire against Bush, Fidel Castro was informing the world of the truth of the coup, while the Soviet foreign secretary looked on from Managua."

Argentina

President Departs for Group of Eight Summit

PY1110124489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1012 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Oct (TELAM)—Today at 0955, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem departed for Peru. Menem boarded the presidential plane "Tango-01" in the military sector of the metropolitan airport. While in Peru, President Menem will attend the third meeting of the Group of Eight which will be held in Ica.

Menem will attend the opening ceremony that will be held at noon. This ceremony will be headed by Peruvian President Alan Garcia and attended by Brazilian President Jose Sarney, Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Mexican President Ricardo Salinas de Gortari, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Menem and his colleagues from the Group of Eight will also sign a document which, among other things, includes a paragraph sponsored by Brazil which expresses the presidents' great satisfaction over the start of Argentine- British talks.

Spokesman Denies Cabinet Resignation Report

PY1110024389 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0226 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo today denied a press agency report that President Carlos Menem had decided on 6 October to request the resignation of his cabinet.

Toledo categorically denied the report and, answering another question, stated that President Menem had not telephoned union leaders Saul Ubaldini and Lorenzo Miguel from Peru as had been reported by press agencies.

Pardon Decree 1003 Affects Former Montoneros

PY1110235889 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 8 Oct 89 p 7

[Text] Through Decree No 1003 the executive branch has pardoned several terrorists from different armed organizations and some members of Uruguay's military and police who participated in the repression of terrorism in Argentina.

The most well-known individuals are Fernando Vaca Narvaja, Roberto Perdia, Oscar Bidegain, Miguel Bonasso, Norman Briski, Gonzalo and Rene Chavez, Rodolfo Galimberti, Jaime Dri, and Raul and Osvaldo Lovey, all of whom are linked to the Montoneros subversive organization.

The list also includes Maria Antonia Berger, Ruben Jesus Emperador, and Fermin Angel Nunez.

Decree No 1003—for reasons identical to those of Decree No 1002, which pardons military officers who participated in the antisubversive repression—states that above any other consideration "of reasons of doctrinary or ideological positions" it is necessary to adopt measures that will create "the appropriate conditions to arrive at a definite reconciliation of all the Argentine people thanks to the spiritual greatness of the men and women of this country."

The decree states that this measure is "only a political mechanism forseen by the Constitution to create conditions for national pacification," although it does not mean that this objective has been reached.

The decree also includes the names of the Uruguayan officers who stood trial for participating in Argentina's antisubversive repression in the case entitled "Rodriguez Larreta Piera, Enrique, on charges": Jose Gavazzo, Jorge Silveira, Manuel Cordero, and Hugo Campos Hermida.

The names of those pardoned are:

National Federal Criminal Court No 3 of the Federal Capital.

Case No 42335 bis "Rodriguez Larreta Piera, Enrique, on charges": Gavazzo, Jose Nino; Silveira, Jorge; Cordero, Manuel; Campos Hermida, Hugo.

National Criminal Court No 5 of the Federal Capital.

Case No 1199 entitled "Firelli, Enrique Horacio; on violation of Article 189 bis of the Penal Code, Law No. 20840, on murder and unlawful association for criminal purposes" attached to Case No 1430 on "Alemann, Juan Mino; Ventura y Consigleri, Silvio, victims of murder and torture": Vaca Narvaja, Fernando Hugo; Perdia, Roberto Cirilo; Bidegain, Oscar Raul.

Case No 2230/86 entitled "Firmenich, Mario Eduardo and others, on murder, Violation of Law No 20,840": Vaca Narvaja, Fernando Hugo.

National Federal Court No 6 of the Federal Capital.

Case No 5148 entitled "Bavio, Gerardo and others, on violation of Article 210 of the Penal Code": Bavio, Gerardo; Berman, Silvia; Berrozpe, Eduardo; Bonasso, Miguel; Brisky, Naum; Chavez, Gonzalo Leonidas; Chavez Rene; Gelman, Juan; Massaferro, Lidia; Orgambide, Pedro; Rappari de Lencinas, Nilda; Sanz de Llorente, Susana; Diaz, Olimpia; Fernandez Long, Pablo; Galimberti, Rodolfo; Pedreira, Manuel; Ramos, Pablo; Rodriguez Anido, Julio; Dri, Jaime; Vaca Narvaja, Daniel.

Case No 4679 entitled "Firmenich, Mario Eduardo and others, on violation of Article 210 of the Penal Code": Vaca Narvaja, Fernando; Perdia, Roberto Cirilo; Bidegain, Oscar Raul.

Case No 5048 entitled "Levey, Osvaldo Raul and Lewinger, Jorge Omar, on violation of Article 210 of the Penal Code": Lovey, Osvaldo Raul; Lewinger, Jorge Omar.

Case No 5448/87 entitled "Yacuzzi, Rafael on violation of Article 210 of the Penal Code [no closing quotation marks as published]: Yacuzzi, Rafael.

San Isidro Criminal Court.

Case No 17680/78 entitled "Klein, Guillermo Walter on torture, harm, attack and disobedience of authorities, public intimidation, and murder": Vaca Narvaja, Fernando Hugo; Bidegain, Oscar; Perdia, Roberto Cirilo.

Case No 959/85 entitled: "Metz, Heinrich Franz, on kidnapping and extortion": Magario, Raul Jose Melchor; Daleo, Graciela Beatriz; Clasiregui, Marcelino Eduardo; Quinteros, Jose Daniel; Larralde, Amalia Maria; Cubas, Lisandro Raul; Mendez, Jorge; Weissen, Ana Dora; Alberti de Murphy, Graciela Estela; Murphy, Santiago Ulises; Lujan, Jesus Maria; Soria, Ricardo; Ahumada, Roberto Jose; Portomene, Alicia; Espinosa, Eduardo; Gomez, Norberto; Morci'lo, Maria Alicia; Creus, Carlos; Schmelin, German; Islas, Jose Luis; Khun, Guillermo Adrian; Marcus, Adriana Ruth; Grigena, Gustavo Alberto; Berger, Maria Antonia; Pastoriza, Lilia Victoria; Larralde, Luz Maria.

Federal Court No 1 of Moron.

Case No 8814 entitled "Rodriguez, Lazaro Martin, on violation of Article 310 bis of the Penal Code": Rodriguez, Lazaro Martin.

Federal Court No 1 of San Martin.

Case No 41811: on the investigation of the kidnapping and extortion of Juan and Jorge Born [no quotation marks as published] : Magario, Raul Jose Melchor.

Case No 191 entitled "Lopez, Juan Domingo and others on illegal arrest and murders": Lopez, Juan Domingo; Mao, Luis Oscar; Ibanez, Sergio Maria.

Federal Court No 1 of Tucuman.

Case No 478/74 entitled "Figueroa, Rolando C. and others, on double murder and torture": Carrizo, Francisco Antonio; Paz, Jose Martini; Emperador, Ruben Jesus; Nunez, Fermin Angel.

Government Promulgates Law on Nuclear Security

PY1110171489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1324 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Oct (TELAM)—The executive branch has promulgated a law approving the convention on quick notification of a nuclear accident and the convention on assistance in cases of nuclear accidents and emergencies.

This convention seeks to "increase international cooperation for the safe use and development of nuclear energy," besides "guaranteeing a high level of security in nuclear activities."

The law also orders that necessary measures be taken "to prevent nuclear accidents and to reduce the consequences of such accidents to a minimum, if they ever occur."

The government also promulgated a law approving the agreement between Argentina and the PRC on cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy that was signed in Beijing in April 1985.

In the agreement, both countries stress that "the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is an important factor to promote the economic and social development of the two countries." The document emphasizes the common will to implement a policy of "peaceful use of nuclear energy to achieve development."

The government also promulgated laws approving agreements on tourist cooperation that Argentina signed with the governments of Costa Rica, the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Canada.

The agreements will encourage bilateral tourism because we are "convinced that tourism creates conditions for a better understanding and good will among peoples, and facilitates relations between nations."

The government also promulgated a law approving the convention on consular functions between Argentina and Italy, and a law approving the amendments to the international convention on human safety in the seas.

Soviet Tourist Officials Arrive on Visit

PY1110171289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1622 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Oct (DYN)—Soviet officials have arrived in Argentina. During their stay they will visit several tourist areas and sign bilateral tourist cooperation agreements that will be implemented in 1990.

According to the Cultural Exchange Center (CEINCU), the Soviet tourist experts will stay in the country for several days and will visit several tourist areas.

The Soviet officials are also scheduled to meet with national officials and Argentine tourism officials.

The visiting officials are Ivan Laptev, vice chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Bureau of Tourism and Tours [buro de turismo y excursiones del consejo central de los sindicatos sovieticos]; and Alexander Shapovalov, director of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions foreign tourism department.

Spain To Begin Disbursing $1-Billion Loan

PY0510010789 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Oct 89 p 5

[Excerpt] The Spanish Government has given Argentina a $1-billion loan. The Spanish Government will begin disbursing the loan in the 2d week of October. Twenty

percent of the loan will go to the public sector, and the remaining 80 percent will go to the private sector.

Spanish Secretary of Commerce Apolonio Ruiz Ligero will come to Argentina tomorrow to discuss the deal. He will be received at the airport by his Argentine counterpart, Oscar Saggese, and Foreign Ministry Secretary of Special Relations Alfredo Yoma. The officials will analyze the implementation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which was signed by the two countries and which calls for agreements on joint ventures. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Rights Commission Reports Common Grave Discovery

PY1110154489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1751 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Santa Cruz, 8 Oct (EFE)—The Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Commission reported here today the discovery of seven common graves at a clandestine cemetery at the "Espejos" rehabilitation farm which belongs to the Bolivian police. The farm is located east of La Paz.

Gonzalo Ruiz, the chairman of this commission, said that this cemetery is "undeniable proof that torture and repressive actions are carried out against the inmates at the Espejos prisons."

Ruiz said: "Espejos is not a rehabilitation center but a concentration camp where human rights are violated."

"It is necessary to review the legislation concerning prisons and the so-called rehabilitation centers. We should not resort to torture or to repressive actions like in the 17th century because the world has made considerable progress in this matter," Ruiz said.

Santa Cruz Prefect Rolando Arostegue said that this is not the first time that irregularities have been detected at the Espejos prison.

Arostegue said that "demonstrations have recently been staged in Santa Cruz demanding the closure of the Espejos prison, where Bolivian poet Erwin Parada was killed by a policemen."

"The Espejos prison does not help the inmates to rehabilitate, it makes them harder criminals. Several radical reforms should urgently be implemented in this prison," Arostegue concluded.

Brazil

Opinion Poll Shows Collor Leading Electoral Race

PY1110023089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] has released figures of its fourth opinion poll on the presidential race since the start of the free radio and television campaign.

The news in this poll is that Leonel Brizola and Luiz Inacio da Silva are now contesting second place and the right to qualify for a run-off election. The difference between these candidates is now so minimal that IBOPE considers them technically tied. [passage omitted]

Here are the figures of the IBOPE opinion poll:

If the election were held today, Roberto Freire of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], Rolando Caiado of the PSD [Democratic Social Party], and Aureliano Chaves of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] would virtually tie with 1 percent of the votes;

Ulysses Guimaraes of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] would get 4 percent;

Mario Covas of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and Paulo Maluf of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] would also virtually tie with 6 percent of the votes;

Afif Domingos of the PL [Liberal Party] would place fourth with 8 percent;

Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of the PT [Workers Party] would get 12 percent;

Leonel Brizola of the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], 14 percent;

And Fernando Collor de Melo of the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] would place first with 32 percent of the votes. [passage omitted]

Chile

PCCh Leader Corvalan Supports Aylwin

PY1210115889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2220 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Santiago, 10 Oct (EFE)—Luis Corvalan Lepe, the leader of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] who today returned to Chile after 13 years of exile in the USSR, has expressed his support for opposition presidential candidate, Patricio Aylwin.

Answering questions about the activities of the "Manuel Rodriguez National Liberation Patriotic Front [Frente Patriotico Manuel Rodriguez de Liberacion Nacional]" (FMLN), [as received] which is identified as the armed branch of the PCCh, Corvalan said that "for ethical and moral reasons, I cannot say anything about those who have struggled against the dictatorship."

In 1986, The FMLN tried to kill General Augusto Pinochet and illegally introduced a large arms cache into the country. Its leaders are currently undertaking a "patriotic war." They have announced that they will continue to promote an armed struggle if Aylwin is elected.

Addressing journalists at the Santiago airport, Corvalan said: "Violence is a social factor which unfortunately society has been unable to overcome."

Asked whether his justification of violence may hinder Aylwin's candidacy, the 73-year old PCCh leader said he does not believe this will happen because "Aylwin's candidacy represents the expression of all democratic trends."

Corvalan added: "Aylwin is a consensus candidate. He is the candidate who should obtain the largest support under the current conditions in Chile on the basis of respect for the individual position of each political trend."

About the continuation of Pinochet as the Chilean Army commander after the assumption of the democratic government, Corvalan said: "it is not proper for one person to give orders to another who was elected by the people."

Corvalan said that the old disagreements between the PCCh and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] have been overcome because "all of us have changed over the years."

He added that the PCCh members "are not the same as they were in 1973. We are immersed in perestroyka, and there have been considerable changes." He added: "The PDC has also experienced changes since 1973." [passage omitted]

Government To Watch Corvalan

PY1210120089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry is analyzing the statement made by Communist leader Luis Corvalan upon his return to the country.

This character said that he advocates violence as a means for political struggle.

Minister Carlos Caceres said that the government will closely watch Corvalan's activities and should he violate the laws currently in force, he will be punished according to the tools provided by the state of law.

Colombia

DAS Arrests Medellin Cartel Leader 11 Oct

PA1110182689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Jose Rafael Abello Silva, chief of the drug-trafficking cartel on the coast and fourth man in the Medellin Cartel, was arrested by the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, in northern Bogota in the last few hours. Abello is wanted by a U.S. federal court in Oklahoma, the United States, for conspiracy to distribute drugs.

[Begin reporter Hernando Salazar recording] Mono [Monkey] Abello, as he is known in the drug-trafficking world, became active in the marijuana business in the last decade and is now responsible for the transportation of a substantial part of the cocaine which the Medellin Cartel sends to the United States.

Avello, 34, a native of Santa Marta, was arrested in early 1988 for illegal possession of weapons on the Atlantic coast. Shortly after Luis Carlos Galan's assassination, the U.S. Government asked for his extradition, bearing in mind that the federal court in Oklahoma is trying him for drug trafficking. His extradition is taken for granted, and it is believed that it will take place once all legal requirements are met, expected to be longer than 1 week.

DAS sources said that Mono Avello offered a bribe of 100 million pesos to the six detectives who arrested him last night at an exclusive restaurant in Bogota's northern section. The authorities had been trailing him in Bogota for several days. The Army has occupied several of his properties on the Atlantic coast and has seized vehicles and yachts belonging to him.

In another development, it has been learned that Peruvian justice yesterday insisted again on the extradition of Evaristo Porras Ardila, who escaped from a jail in Peru while serving a sentence for drug trafficking. [end recording]

Escobar Sends Letter to LA PRENSA Head

PA1210010389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] What you now see is a faxed copy we have received of the letter Pablo Escobar Gaviria sent to LA PRENSA Director Juan Carlos Pastrana. This spot is his fingerprint. The Extraditables asked LA PRENSA Director Juan Carlos Pastrana to serve as mediator before the church, the political class, and the Supreme Court of Justice and its magistrates in order to seek a direct dialogue with the government and thus consolidate peace in our country.

The letter, signed by Pablo Escobar Gaviria, lists five points. In these points, he summarizes the contacts made with the government, as well as—they claim—outrages committed against their families. The Extraditables reiterate several counterproposals they have made to achieve peace.

Communist Groups Blame Pentagon for Panama Coup

PA1110175689 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 Oct 89

["Summary" of communique issued by the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC); the Army of National Liberation, Camilist Union, (UC-ELN), and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (PCML); date and place not given]

[Text] One, we reiterate our call for the people to express, through demonstrations and actions of various kinds, a mass repudiation of the barefaced intervention

by U.S. imperialism in our country and throughout Latin America, and of the advances made by fascism.

Two, our organizations emphatically reject the dirty work being done by imperialism and rightist forces in an attempt to link and identify the guerrilla movement with drug trafficking organizations and their paramilitary forces. This is part of the psychological warfare being waged to smear the political ideology of insurgent forces, and to undermine the legitimacy of those forces' existence and activities.

While official declarations indicate that the government will not engage in a dialogue with the drug traffickers, secret negotiations are actually being held with the traffickers, or with some sectors of them. From the agreements reached therein, we deduce that attacks on leftists and democratic forces and against popular sectors could be stepped up in direct proportion to the consolidation of fascist tendencies. The incident in Medellin is an example of this.

Three, we condemn the new attempt to stage a coup d'etat in Panama, which was orchestrated by the Pentagon and was defeated thanks to the unity of the Panamanian people in defense of their sovereignty and dignity.

Four, concerning the recent agreement on demobilization and the turnover of weapons reached by the M-19 [19 April Movement] and the government, we express our clear disagreement. That pact favors a demobilization of the struggling masses, furthers the government's divisionist intentions, and places the M-19 in a position of opposing the premises of unity of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

Five, the PCC, UC-ELN, and PCML reiterate their call for people to work for a broad anti-imperialist front and for the defense of life, sovereignty, and political freedoms through protests, mobilization, and actions by vast political sectors.

Magazine Director Killed in Medellin 10 Oct

PA1110191089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Last night, two unidentified individuals on a motorcycle gunned down Journalist Roberto Sarasty Obregon, 53, as he was leaving the Emisoras Caracol Network radio station facilities. Sarasty was director-editor of EL CRONISTA DEMOCRATA magazine. A 15-year-old minor was accidentaly wounded in the attack.

Minutes later, the authorities reported a multiple murder involving five people, two of whom were minors. They were shot inside the Rendezvous soda shop located at the bus depot in Los Balsos neighborhood, Villa del Socorro, northeastern Medellin. No one has been arrested in any of these cases that darkened the capital of Antioquia Department yesterday.

Judicial Policeman Killed, 1 Wounded in Attack

PA1210012789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0010 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Today, the city of Cali again was the target of an attack by hitmen. Two judicial police agents were killed today while on duty. Adriana Santacruz reports from Cali.

[Begin Santacruz recording] Judicial police special agents Alberto Flores Bustamante and Gilberto Diaz were traveling in a white Monza, with licence plate NG2366. At 1500 at the intersection of the southern highway and 43th Street, several unidentified men driving a black Chevrolet trooper station wagon intercepted the policemen and fired at them with a machinegun. Alberto Florez was killed, and Gilberto Diaz was seriously wounded. Diaz was immediately taken to the hospital, where the doctors fear he might die. The assassins covered their escape by hurling a grenade into the street. The authorities have begun investigating the crime and and looking for the suspects. However, there is total secrecy regarding the case that the two policemen were investigating. It is not known if the policemen had been threatened recently. [end recording]

Self-Defense Groups Urge Talks With Government

PA1210012589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2119 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 11 Oct (DPA)—The peasant self-defense groups, which operate in Colombia and which the secret police describe as paramilitary squads financed by drug traffickers, proposed to the government today the beginning of talks for their future demobilization.

The proposal, which is signed by the members of the "general staff" headed by former Army Captain Luis Guillermo Tarazona, added that the agreements signed by the government and the guerrilla 19 April Movement (M-19) will be respected.

The self-defense groups emerged several years ago in various regions of Colombia as a means to counter the guerrillas. However, according to the authorities, some of the groups received economic aid from the drug mafias and became their "private armies."

According to recent disclosures, the extreme rightist paramilitary groups were given military training by expert mercenaries of the Israeli Army reserve in the "gunmen schools" of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, second in command of the Medellin Cartel.

Nevertheless, the self-defense groups have insisted that they do not have any links with paramilitary groups or drug trafficking.

Those armed sectors are accused of killing thousands of leftist political and labor leaders, teachers, and human rights activists, among others.

British Fishing Trawler, Crew Taken Into Custody

PA1110150989 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota—The British fishing trawler "Rosalinda" has been captured in the San Andres and Providencia area by the Colombian naval vessel "Pedro de Heredia." The foreign vessel was caught by our vessel while fishing without the special licenses, thus violating current legal requirements.

The boat and its crew remain in the custody of the proper authorities. The arrest took place while the "Pedro de Heredia" was headed toward Roncador Key, where a Singapore vessel was grounded, according to the atlantic naval command report.

Ecuador

France's Mitterrand To Visit Colombia 12 Oct

LD1110201389 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Francois Mitterrand, who is now in Ecuador, decided on an extra stage to his Latin American visit. He is expected in Bogota tomorrow by President Barco. This is a way of paying homage to the war that the Colombian president has declared on the Medellin drug traffickers.

Mitterrand Arrives in Country

PA1210022789

[Editorial Report] Quito Radio Quito in Spanish at 2300 on 11 October carries approximately 16 minutes of reports on French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Ecuador. Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja welcomed President Mitterrand at the airport. President Borja praised France's important contributions "toward making Europe a more united continent." Speaking on behalf of the Ecuadoran Government and people, President Borja gave President Mitterrand and his wife a "most warm welcome."

Following President Borja's brief welcoming speech, President Mitterrand praised Ecuadoran democracy which he described as "exemplary in Latin America."

Today also President Mitterrand was declared guest of honor by the municipality of Quito and the mayor presented the French president with the keys to the city. During the solemn ceremony prepared by the municipality of Quito, President Mitterrand described Quito as "an exceptional city...a heroic city." This afternoon President Mitterrand inaugurated the French Revolution Square in Quito where he unveiled a monument in honor of Charles de Gaulle. During the inauguration, President Mitterrand again talked about the beauty of Quito and the surrounding mountains.

Discusses Economy With Borja

PA1210005389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Quito, 11 Oct (AFP)—French President Francois Mitterrand this afternoon listened to an analysis of the Ecuadoran economic situation during a private meeting with his counterpart and host, Rodrigo Borja. The announcement was made by Hubert Vedrine, spokesman for the French president.

In their first private meeting, the two presidents discussed for 30 minutes their bilateral relations and the weak trade that is unfavorable to the South American country. Efforts will be made to balance this trade.

In fact, bilateral trade rose from $41 million to $50.6 million between 1984 to 1988, but it continued being unfavorable for Ecuador.

Last year, the trade balance was unfavorable by $8.9 million to Ecuador, a petroleum-producing country with 11 million people and a per capita foreign debt of over $1,000. Ecuador is also burdened by the weight of its foreign creditors, mostly the commercial banks.

Borja reported to his guest that Ecuador is heading "more and more toward a mixed economy," and that it has adopted measures recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Vedrine added.

Ecuador is making serious efforts to balance its situation, and Mitterrand's visit to Ecuador has generated "very strong expectations" and a "very great interest," and Borja hopes the visit will be a means for achieving other goals, the French official spokesman added.

After listening attentively to Borja, Mitterrand emphasized the warmth which which the Ecuadoran people received him when he walked 200 meters to the Quito Municipal Palace, where he was declared an illustrious guest and given the keys to the city by Quito Mayor Rodrigo Paz.

According to the same source, the French president noticed the Ecuadoreans are eager to receive representatives from other great Western countries and hopeful of the aid these guests may bring to the country.

In concluding, Vedrine confirmed that Mitterrand will meet on 12 October in Bogota with Colombian President Virgilio Barco after concluding his visit to Ecuador at 1630 (2130 GMT).

Paraguay

Minister Opens Antidrug Education Conference

PY1210033789 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Oct 89 p 16

[Excerpt] The 20th meeting of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture (CIECC) opened this morning with the participation of several

education ministers and delegates from all the countries of the Americas. The main issue of the meeting will be the struggle against drugs.

Opening the CIECC meeting, Paraguayan Minister of Education and Worship Dionisio Gonzalez Torres said: "During this meeting we are going to hold an informal dialogue on education's role in facing the challenge of drugs. This is a very important issue with serious implications and great commercial, political, and even ideological interest." President Andres Rodriguez attended the opening ceremony.

Gonzalez Torres, who was elected CIECC president this morning, also emphasized the seriousness of increased drug addiction. He noted that addiction was becoming a factor in schools to some extent in practically every country and that it affects youth physically, mentally, intellectually, and socially.

Gonzalez Torres added: "This is a struggle on two opposite fronts and so far no decision has been made on where and how to attack it with greater strength. It is clear that if there is drug production and trafficking it is because there is consumption. The largest economic powers, the so-called developed countries, have the largest markets, the greatest amount of consumers. If the struggle against drugs in those countries is not carried out with greater conviction, then drug production and trafficking will continue to flourish." [passage omitted]

Accord on Japanese Immigration Signed

PY1110164489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Oct 89 p 11

[Excerpt] During a brief meeting at the Foreign Ministry, representatives of the Paraguayan and Japanese Governments yesterday signed an agreement approving the modification of the accord on Japanese immigration to Paraguay.

Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana and Goro Nakasone, the Japanese Ambassador to Paraguay, signed the agreement which states "that the number of Japanese (hereinafter called Japanese immigrants) who will be authorized to come to Paraguay will be increased to 85,000 when this accord comes into force. Any Japanese citizen, no matter the age, will be considered an immigrant."

This agreement will allow the Japanese to continue to immigrate to Paraguay, taking into account that the first accord on immigration that was signed 30 years ago will expire this month.

Argana recalled that "Article One, Paragraph One of the first accord on immigration that was signed in June 1959 established that 85,000 Japanese immigrants could enter the country within a period of 30 years. This accord came into force on 26 October 1959. This new agreement prolongs the former accord indefinitely." [passage omitted]

Peru

Integration Agreements With Argentina Signed

PY1110132889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1905 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Trujillo, Peru, 10 Oct (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and his Peruvian counterpart Guillermo Larco Cox signed three integration agreements today in Trujillo, Libertad Department. Cavallo said that the agreements "clearly show the efforts being made toward a common goal" which means "moving ahead to build a great Latin American nation."

The agreements, which were prepared by the foreign ministries of the two countries, were signed today by the two foreign ministers in the old house that belonged to Simon Bolivar during the time he lived in Trujillo. The ceremony was held under strict security measures, seeking to prevent subversive actions. Security measures were reinforced in the last few hours following an attack early this morning 12 blocks from the hotel where the delegations are staying.

The first agreement creates the Political Coordination and Integration Committee. Cavallo said that this is aimed at "taking more orderly steps in the efforts which have been made throughout our history because the Argentine and Peruvian desire for integration has roots as old as the struggle for independence."

The second agreement refers to the coordination of efforts for the prevention and repression of drug trafficking. Cavallo said: "This problem is reaching terrifying dimensions because its economic power is mixed with terrorist and subversive groups. As such it is becoming a growing threat to the Latin American democracies."

In a brief speech Cavallo also referred to the third agreement to prevent double taxation among air and maritime enterprises. He said: "Integration requires good transportation methods with which to bring people closer together" thus making "progress through concrete mechanisms in the integration process in which our countries are involved."

Larco Cox said that through these agreements "Argentine President Carlos Menem has confirmed, through his representative, his political will to agree" to find solutions to the problems affecting the region by seeking "new roads for understanding and to strengthen our already rich bilateral relations."

A few hours before this ceremony, which was also attended by Under Secretary Jose Luis Fernandez Valoni and Ambassador Julian Licastro, Trujillo was shaken at 0400 by four powerful dynamite explosions (a fifth bomb did not explode) which destroyed about half a dozen offices of the National Housing Enterprise.

This enterprise, which operates with state and private capital, is located in the Monserrate district where there

is a housing development for poor people. It is located 1 km from the parade ground, downtown Trujillo, across from which is located the Turista Hotel. This is the hotel where the foreign ministers of Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela are staying.

The explosions did not cause any casualties and the police hold the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement responsible for the attack.

The agreement establishing that maritime and air transport companies only pay taxes where they are headqurtered will make bilateral trade more fluid and will help strengthen bilateral relations.

The commission for political coordination and integration established today will be headed by Cavallo and Larco Cox in order to centralize the decision-making process on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and in order to substantially speed up the treatment of issues of common interest.

The new commission will replace all existing mixed commissions to facilitate adequate coordination and systematization of priorities and programs. The agreement on prevention, illegal use, and repression of drug trafficking ratifies the commitments made in the 1961 convention on narcotics, as amended by the 25 March 1972 protocol.

Considering the decisions of the December 1988 UN Vienna convention on drug trafficking, and recognizing that "our states are increasingly affected" by this scourge, the two countries commit themselves to maintaining technical and scientific assistance and a frequent exchange of information on drug consumption and trafficking.

The coordinating mechanisms will be handled by a mixed advisory commission representing the two governments which will alternatively meet in Argentina and Peru to exchange progress reports on programs under implementation.

The agreement provides for assistance to drug addicts, the exchange of technicians, the organization of explanatory and specialized courses, and the exchange of information on initiviatives regarding institutions in charge of addict rehabilitation.

Shining Path Kills 8 Policemen at Mining Plant

PY1210114889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1945 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Lima, 11 Oct (EFE)—Today, Shining Path terrorists murdered eight policemen including an officer during an attack on the facilities of the Minero Peru state mining enterprise in Ananea. This information was provided by the Radiogramas del Peru radio station.

The source added that Shining Path members also murdered the mayor and governor of Ananea, Puno Department, which is located at the Bolivian border, and a councilman of San Juan de Oro, Puno Department. The source did not disclose the names of the victims.

During the attack on Minero Peru, which was carried out by an undisclosed number of Shining Path members, the policemen were killed and their arms and ammunition were taken from the police post that guards the state enterprise installation.

Town Officials Killed in Cajatambo, Tarapato

PY1210115089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] (Manacer Tercero del Aguila), a mayoral candidate for the town of Tarapoto for the FREDEMO [Democratic Front], and his wife were murdered today by alleged terrorists.

Last night subversives murdered Felix Vergara Avila, the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] mayor of Cajatambo. The murders were committed when subversives attacked Astobamba.

Venezuela

Mitterrand Addresses National Congress

PA1010233889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1450 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Speech by French President Francois Mitterrand at Venezuelan Congress in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish—live]

[Text] Mr President of the Congress of the Republic, ladies and gentlemen, Senators and Deputies:

During my official visits to the American Continent, it has been traditional for me to visit Congress, and it is a great pleasure for me because I was also a Congressman for 35 years. This is my opportunity to address the representatives of the nation. I like to return, even for just a few moments, to this environment so familiar to me, because this privilege was forbidden to me in my own country due to customs and traditions. That is why I value so much the opportunity that you, ladies and gentlemen, give me to be with the Venezuelan congressmen.

I would also like to say that, to me, it is an honor to be welcomed in this Congress. This is the bicentennial anniversary of the French Revolution and you recently, and again a few moments ago, Mr President, have confirmed your friendship for France and your affections for the values of the French Revolution. You have joined in the celebrations, and right here you held a special session, for which I would like to sincerely thank you.

The Venezuelan Congress is at the same time a living symbol, and the guarantor of democracy in Venezuela. You are the representatives of popular sovereignty, and therefore you are the heirs of the liberators, not only of Veneuzela, but of all Latin America. The memory of Bolivar, Miranda, Sucre, and so many other heroes who

shed their blood for freedom in the name of those same ideals that shook France and Europe 2 centuries ago, is also revered in Paris, Rome, Berlin, Caracas, Bogota, and so many cities where national values are upheld.

It is up to you and me to go from generation to generation, following the efforts that the liberators made to promote and defend these values that are common to us all. These values are so simple to state and yet so hard to defend and safeguard—liberty, respect for human rights, and democracy,.

In this part of the world, 10 years ago, Venezuela was still an exception. Venezuela is still an example today for countries that the heroes of the Venezuelan Revolution helped to liberate. For 30 years you have enjoyed domestic peace. It is political peace with regard to the laws of alternating power that you value perfectly. Many countries could envy you. Today we see Latin America so linked with Frenchmen. This is the Latin America with which we share the most sacred values. It is really part of us, because during its history, it accepted so many immigrants from Europe and France who sought the path of liberty throughout this continent.

The European democracies have encouraged this evolution and have often accompanied and welcomed the oppressed and the victims of persecution. These values currently represent a decisive peace factor that will allow the Latin American nations to return to what would look utopian to many of you, but which represents a deep desire, a spirit of integration, selecting their own ways—like Europe is doing—to achieve Bolivar's old dream. If your countries, after having taken control of their destiny and their political options, manage to achieve their wish of securing development within social justice, they will surely succeed in advancing toward unity. This will undoubtedly be the initial ferment of a long common history during many joint struggles and confrontations.

We share this spirit and these values. They inspire France's foreign policy, for which I am chiefly responsible. It means (?promoting) peace, in contributing by our own means toward the development of poorer countries, promoting dialogue to promote cultural exchanges among nations, and strengthening economic ties. The defense of peace entails persevering and methodical and realistic action on our part for the benefit of disarmament, initially to reach a new equilibrium of forces at the lowest possible level. Extremely important progress has been made over the past 2 years through the Washington treaty concerning the elimination of short-range and medium-range land-based missiles in Europe, the promising development of the Vienna talks concerning conventional forces in Europe, and those in Geneva concerning the ban on the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

In this regard, I would like to remind you that France's strategy continues to be based on nuclear dissuasion to make war impossible. In our opinion, this strategy must be maintained as long as it is necessary, and in all areas possible we would like to have our voices heard and to participate in the general movement toward the pacification of conflicts. For example, we strongly hope that the two superpowers, which have an excessive number of weapons, will reach an agreement, as they are now attempting to substantially reduce the number of strategic nuclear weapons, weapons that can be fired from a distance of 4,000 to 5,000 km.

In 1983, I listed before the UN General Assembly the conditions that would be needed for France to join this [nuclear arms reduction] movement. Both superpowers must continue their efforts to keep their destructive capabilities as balanced as possible, and within the defense possibilities of the other world powers. My country has won the right to be part of a peaceful Europe. My country cannot detach itself from area or local conflicts that still disrupt world peace. How can this kind of problem be broached? Respecting the right of people to self-determination is essential, as is the integrity and sovereignty of the states recognized by the group of nations.

These principles particularly inspired our way of thinking with regard to all types of conflict, especially the Central American conflicts. This means that we are very pleased with the recent, but still fragile, evolutions that have taken place, especially in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Naturally, there is still much to be done. The task continues to be very difficult and we must remain alert. I know that you are worried because of this situation, you are a neighboring country and you want to find peaceful solutions to the problem by giving the example, and France, for the past few years, has approved of and closely followed the resolutions drafted in your forums. It is quite evident that the defense of peace is one of the priorities of France's foreign policy. We also feel that the possibility of closing the gap that is growing between developed and developing countries is very important. The gap has become so great that some countries have just resigned themselves to this fact. I solemnly wish to reiterate before this assembly that underdevelopment is not a crime. Believe me, the most urgent task lies in finding a solution to underdevelopment, because the current imbalance could hurl the world into the worst type of unrest.

Back in my country, on many occasions, I have said that I believe that the problem of underdevelopment is second only to the problem of the arms race. The nuclear arms race depends on authorities who are responsible and capable of controlling their own actions; however, underdevelopment and all its problems could unleash a situation in which the passions, despair, rigors of nature and man, mix. This could result in one desperate action, violence. Who would then be able to control the situation? Who could control a movement rising from the hearts of several billion people around the world? The economic crisis that began to develop 15 years ago affects those people more than it affects us, countries

described as rich countries, great industrialized countries like France and other countries with which France has close ties.

During the summits of the so-called more industrialized countries, the development of countries of the South is based on something quite different. Many countries are not really poor. In fact, they are rich. In other words, they have possibilities to become rich. These are countries with so-called intermediate-level incomes that are basically suffering because of the burden of their foreign debt, whose service absorbs an excessive amount of their resources. How can one imagine that these nations will make the prolonged efforts demanded from them—in fact, efforts that keep increasing everyday—to receive increasingly less. This is an intolerable contradiction. Therefore, we must think and establish those mechanisms that will allow the indebted countries to reconcile the demands of their development and the legal reimbursement of their debt.

I proposed to the big industrialized countries—especially last year, however, I had been doing it for several years without seeing much progress—the adoption of measures to reduce the debt of poorer countries.

These proposals have been well received and France decided to forgive a third of the loans restructured within the framework of the Paris Club. For the poorest African countries—as you know there are special relations between France and the African countries—such forgiveness will be applied to all public loans granted by France.

The debt problem is different when it comes to countries with heavy foreign debts but with only so-called intermediate-level incomes. Venezuela is one of these, although it has the specific characteristic of a high debt that is essentially a private debt. As a result, Venezuela has not resorted often to Paris Club measures. For these countries I also proposed at the UN General Assembly, first in 1983 and then in September 1988, a plan intended for intermediate-level income countries, which consists of creation of a special IMF fund, fed by special Special Drawing Rights [SDR], guaranteeing the payment of interest on commercial loans converted into obligations. In the SDR of a multilateral fund, large industrialized countries with a respectable quota would renounce using the proceeds from those monies. In other words, they would leave the money in the fund, allowing the creation of a larger fund to allow lenders to receive reimbursement of their loans and would allow debtor countries to not have the sudden obligation of having to support a suffocating burden, because in just a few years they would be unable to cope with all their obligations.

Other countries have made different proposals that are headed in the same direction. This has led to the adoption of debt reduction strategies by what has been termed the major [cumbre de largo]—in other words, the summit of large, industrialized countries that met in Paris in July. This strategy calls for allowing debtor countries unilateral funds to support debt reduction operations negotiated with commercial banks.

I want to reiterate that this new [foreign debt] strategy, to which we have subscribed to avoid isolation, does not appear to be the best. This strategy, in which each country is dealt with separately, could take years when the number of debtor countries is known and we consider the slow speed with which efforts are conducted. This case-by-case discussion of debts allows more powerful countries to apply their power more strongly than is advisable and to bring other countries to the level they want.

We hope this strategy yields good results, however, if the governments and especially the lending banks are willing to do it. But there are no assurances. France, of course, will strive hard to achieve this objective. Venezuela, the efforts to keep the commitments of which are known to all, is right to hope new procedures will prevail. I discussed this matter with President Carlos Andres Perez, whom I have known for a long time. We will also discuss this matter today, and I think we must have a great deal of imagination to present to the rest of the world a series of proposals that will make private banks accept more sensible and reasonable terms. But to you, the foreign debt problem is fundamental, and so it is to us. I always tell the other Western countries that this problem is also fundamental.

If we keep in mind that certain countries, which are involved in heavy trading, face stiff competition, and strive to control markets, could experience a gradual decrease in the number of customers, these large countries would face increasingly greater poverty.

The human masses would suffer greatly, and we would recognize that we can no longer live without reviewing the terms of exchange. If we do not restart the engine, the car will never work. Therefore, the so-called rich countries would perhaps suffer less (?by an increase in prices), but would also nevertheless cruelly suffer, because a new crisis, which would be frightful, would be created.

The ideas I presented to contribute to the solution of the problem demonstrate our firm determination to eliminate unacceptable obstacles on the path to growth. Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, development does not involve only one problem. For other developing countries, it also involves the stabilization of its export revenues and access of their products to the markets of industrialized countries.

In our experience with our African friends, we have noticed that small variations in the price of raw materials determined by places such as Chicago prevent, almost overnight, the implementation of 2, 3, and 5 year development plans.

How could these countries survive tomorrow if this happens? I would like to stress that with the single market among the 12 EEC countries there will be no borders between these countries. There will be a total

liberation of exchange rates and a set of common rules applied to the 12 countries starting on 1 January 1993, which is not too far away.

The goal of the single market is to protect the 12 member countries of the EEC. There is no danger that Europe will become a fortress closed to the rest of the world. I am currently heading the EEC until the end of December, and I can tell you that I would be against those who would make a fortress out of Europe. However, it will not be a fortress. We want to make it a more uniform economic group. By eliminating trade barriers that still divide us, we are going to reunite 320 million people, which will make us the world's No 1 economic power. Therefore, much can be done in technology and industry because of this, without forgetting the many cultural aspects which we share. We can not forget European culture, nor the other cultures. Today we see throughout our increasingly smaller world that there is a mixture of these cultures, which should allow—if the human being is intelligent and above all controls his passions, which is not always the case—future generations to start a new era.

Therefore, it is not a case of making the EEC an isolated fortress with new forms of protectionism. This is not the case. I would even say that this is all to the contrary. This community must be increasingly opened. Its trade will be increasing. I want to establish broader and more balanced trade relations with all our economic partners. Your country, Venezuela, for example, has always played a key role in initiatives aimed at developing cooperation among the various groups of nations. It did not surprise me to see President Carlos Andres Perez on 14 July meeting with Presidents Diouf of Senegal and Mubarak of Egypt and with Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and then propose to me, as host of the summit meeting of the Group of Seven, a reactivation of the North-South dialogue.

The idea of a North-South meeting is attractive. However, we must not improvise this type of meeting. I have the experience of Cancun, which was the first action of my presidency in 1981.

I had high hopes, but what I saw and listened to for several days was enough to make me recognize that we had dreamed many dreams. Most of the industrialized countries are not ready to hold a North-South dialogue. I regret that. We must try and insist, or at least let us hold a meeting with those that do want a meeting, and let us begin to realistically and strongly propose a series of solutions to the problems that are brought up. In other words, and while not ignoring the obstacles and reservations this initiative may prompt, I personally intend to do everything within my power to achieve this goal with the sponsors of this initiative, especially with the Venezuelan president, as I said before. The two of us are convinced supporters of the virtues of a dialogue among nations as the means to discuss and try to solve problems, which all of mankind is now facing. There are not only bilateral relations. We, the big countries with rich histories, must not only hold discussions among ourselves on problems pertaining to our region. Instead, we have to be concerned over world problems. We must make our voice heard. That is why at the beginning I talked about problems regarding the defense of peace, foreign debt, promotion of the development of countries, and the solution to multiple regional conflicts that may at any time lead to broader conflicts, conflicts of a greater scope. Owing to a kind of perverse sense, certain conflicts are referred to as regional conflicts. However, you know full well that solving regional conflicts depends on the superpowers, which someday will serve as arbiters, and without forgetting their own interests.

However, there are even more perils. Some of the problems that arose recently require determined action from the international community. I am first of all referring to the problems of the environment. Environment is the word in vogue, but the fact is that when we watch what is happening on television; for example, when we hear that a vessel dumped harmful chemical products in the sea, or when a nuclear plant emitted elements that will destroy life everywhere, these elements go... [does not complete thought] Yes, the list of things we see and hear is long indeed.

The pillaging caused by every kind of pollution poses a threat of deforestation or desertification. For example, 25 or 30 km are lost to deforestation each year in the Sahara region. Yesterday we had forests, and today we have deserts. The preservation of our environment calls for concerted action from all nations. Not long ago, we participated in an international conference of 24 countries at The Hague on the preservation of the atmosphere. We felt an international authority might be able to intervene in this field. Of course, the foremost task of the majority of the countries consists in solving their problems on their own. There are many problems that cannot be divided by countries, especially the problem of the environment, because, as all of us know, the environment knows no boundaries. It is not just our personal health and personal future that depend on this, but also the future of coming generations.

Before concluding this lengthy speech, I would like to mention another threat that is dramatically increasing, especially in this part of the world. I am referring to drug trafficking and consumption. In this area, France and Venezuela have also adopted a vigilant and firm position. The two governments bilaterally agreed to join efforts to fight this scourge, and we will sign an agreement on this today. In addition, France has joined other industrialized countries in order to play a decisive role at the summit on drugs and to coordinate international actions against drug trafficking, with attacks directed particularly against the laundering of money obtained from drug trafficking.

We must imagine the problem caused by production itself, when we are dealing with poor countries living in abject misery which perhaps depend on this only. It is

sad. All countries which have the resources are duty-bound to promote substitute crops. These crops must be supported by international aid.

This is a situation that particularly affects the poorest countries, which are not to blame. However, there are bands of criminals who currently represent incredible financial powers, who are armed, and who have already declared war against life, customs and our future; and there are young people, who cannot always tell the difference between things. How can we evaluate the family tragedy of the destruction of a young person? It is not only death that awaits them, but absolute deterioration and suffering, and the suffering of their relatives. They see that they are wasting away their lives. There are now hundreds of thousands of them, and every day there are more victims of this real war that is being waged and that requires appropriate resources and means. As I have already said, we must fight against this scourge.

We must carefully study this delicate problem. We must not say or do just anything, however. I have taken the liberty in this honorable assembly to call this to the attention of the Venezuelan people once again—because you have already done so. Money that is easily gotten can be easily disguised and forces us to see where the money comes from; it also forces us to control financial records.

We are dealing often with poor peasants, and we should not blame them too much either. However, we have to find out who are the criminals, because we must struggle against them. There are a series of agencies and institutions that call themselves honoraable and respectabale, especially in Europe, that are engaged in depositing money and then making use of these deposits. Honor that is bought at the price of success and fortune must be despised. We must despise these organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to conclude. I believe that despite everything that we must observe and regret, that the world is more united, and it has to be this way.

As I said before, the world is becoming smaller. Now the planet is small. What affects one person unavoidably affects someone else. Communications are swift. Look at the power of poetry, literature, the great writers of your own country, whose works we know in our country, and vice versa. Those in other parts of the world are moved when the words from a country like yours reflect profound values and tell the history of humanity; recalling the beauties of nature makes human hope sing. We live among others. No one can live in isolation any longer. It will depend on us for this world to have a little more harmony, and a little more liberty.

To preserve life and its possibilities is the message I want to deliver to you. It is a message of solidarity, hope and friendship. I have been greatly honored to be here in this noble assembly. Perhaps the pleasure of being here, where laws are made and where the country's actions are decided, has led me to discuss a series of topics, and why not? You are the legislators who have this responsibility over and beyond the barriers between parties. We are in a democratic assembly. Allow me to thank you and to convey my words to the Venezuelan people.